

AN  
ACCOUNT

OF THE

RISE and PROGRESS

OF THE

Beech-Oil Invention,

AND

All the Steps which have been taken in that  
Affair, from the First Discovery, to the  
present Time.

AS ALSO,

What is further design'd in That Undertaking.

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*How long, ye simple Ones, will ye love Simplicity? How long,  
O ye Scorners, will you delight in your Scorning? And  
Fools hate Knowledge? Prov.*

---

By AARON HILL Esq;

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L O N D O N,

Printed in the Year M D C C X V.

# ACCOUNT

OF THE

PROGRESS

OF THE  
COLLUSION

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... and ...  
... and ...

... HILL

...  
... in the Year MDCXXV





AN  
ACCOUNT  
OF THE

Rise and Progress of the BEECH-OIL  
Invention, &c,

**I** MAKE you a Present of the following Dis-  
course; that is, I give you the Book *gratis*.  
Any Man, whose Thanks are worth receiving,  
will soon perceive it worth his Thanks: But I  
shall readily discharge you of the Obligation, if  
you will resolve to read it carefully.

When I say carefully, I mean *thinkingly*; that is, either  
read with Attention, like a Man of Understanding; be-  
gin and go through the whole Discourse sedately, and re-  
solve to weigh and judge impartially of what you meet  
with, or else lay down the Book, and trouble you self no  
farther. A wise Man puts himself upon the Level with

®  
a Fool, as often as he judges rashly, and without due Reason.

The Subject of the Book being founded upon an Accident, which is like to make a greater Noise in the World than any Discovery in Trade for these many Ages past, I have thought fit to put my self to a very considerable Expence, and send it as a Present to the Housekeepers of this City.

I should be glad, if the Example could stir up in Merchants and Tradesmen of all Orders, a vigorous Application to Searches after new Discoveries in their respective Callings.

Such an universal Bent of Genius would not only enrich a thousand private Families, but improve our Trade, encrease our Wealth, and firmly establish the Glory of the Nation.

Many, doubtless, have heard Talk of this Discovery before the Book comes to their Hands; and most of them were possibly possessed of an Opinion, that 'twas nothing but a Project. If these Men read as all Men should read, they will soon be forced to change their Sentiments.

Every Body now will see an open Demonstration of the Truth of this Fact: And the Tongues of Knaves and Fools will be no more at Liberty to slander what they have not Sense to comprehend.

Let me therefore seriously and with much Earnestness advise all Persons, to whose Perusal this Book shall come, to consider it as an Opportunity thrown into their Hands by Providence. If a rich Man gets it, he, who knows the Benefit of Riches, will be most pleased with so fair and easy Means of becoming still richer; and if it falls in the Way of such whose Circumstances are more narrow, 'twill

'twill from that Time forward be their own Fault if they do not make themselves happy for their whole Lives after.

But here I must complain of a Crime, which is become as general as it is detestable, That mean, low-spirited Inclination which prevails among Persons of all Ranks, to indulge Detraction, and spread abroad the common Cries of *Scandal*; People are not satisfied with giving Credit to the *filliest* Falshoods, but are eager in applying the worst Interpretation possible to every new Matter they hear of; and then when their own unreasonable Distrust has made them think worse of a Thing than it deserves, they never rest till they have brought over a thousand Profelites to their Folly, and stirr'd up a general Odium against a Devil of their own raising: And if, after all their Noise, their positive Affirmations, and obstinate Reproaches, they come to be convinc'd of the Truth, whether they will or no, They think it Attonement enough for the Mischief they have done, to declare with a grave Face, *That they could not have thought it.*

'Tis impossible to instance or remember half the idle Rumours and ridiculous Abuses, which have, with all the grave Formality of Truth, been spread about through Town and Country, with Design to blast the Credit of this new Discovery, which can possibly do no Man Hurt, but on the contrary will save the Nation Millions of Money, and give Bread to many thousand Families, when I and all these empty Praters shall be Dust and Ashes.

This has made it in a manner necessary to put my self to such an Expence, to rescue the Undertaking from the Hands of Ignorance and Malice, and to make those harden'd Wretches blush, if it be possible, who have not only basely blacken'd such a publick Benefit, but misled great Numbers of well-meaning Men to follow their Example.



How much more noble and becoming the great and generous Soul of Man, had been an open and avow'd Encouragement of any Thing, which bore a Face of Publick Good, and Service to our Country?

These idle Busie-bodies, these Tongue-Champions, who, like a Drum, owe all their Noise to their being hollow, These waspish, stingless Insects, ought to know, That the Guilt they practise is not only a Misapplication of their Time, and a Prostitution of their Reason, but an Act as base and villanous as breaking open Houses, because it prevents and intercepts a Blessing, which would chiefly fall upon the Widow and the Orphan.

Nothing can be plainer than the Truth of this; for if any Man or Woman, who think your Judgment clearer than their own, entreat you to advise them how to act in a doubtful Case, and you making use of the Authority they give you, should, out of Prejudice, Laziness, unreasonable Fears, or for want of due Thinking and Enquiry, misrepresent the Fact, and disappoint them of a present Opportunity to make their Fortunes, which is never like to come again, If after this their Circumstances pinch them, Who but you stand guilty in the Sight of God, of all the Miseries which fall upon them?

Such is the Case before us. The Book in your Hands will give *you*, and every Reader, such an Opportunity; will lay open and explain the whole Affair, till it is made as clear and visible as the Light of Heaven; will confute and expose to Scorn the Impudence and Folly of those idle Cavils and Objections which are made against it, and demonstrate that there is no Hazard run; and that even if there were a Hazard run, it could bear no Proportion with the Profit expected; and that tho' it were possible (which it is not) that all the little Money parted with should be lost for ever, the Loss would be so small, as hardly to be felt; whereas if the Thing succeeds, (as it



it shall be made plain it must) the Contributor of a Trifle makes his Fortune by the Bargain.

It is worth remarking, that notwithstanding the Virulence, the Malice, which has been so long and so openly profess'd against this Undertaking, no Man has found it possible to start one probable Objection, or produce one Argument, which all his Subtlety cou'd maintain against even the first Answer, that was given him.

You, that hear People in Coffee-houses, or elsewhere, pretending to speak ill of the Invention, or advise against it; make This your Test of their Intention and their Honesty; Tell them, that Reason, and not Noise, shou'd be the End of Talking; and that you will soon be of their Mind, if they can give you any Argument against the Undertaking, which you cannot answer: Try them this Way, after you have read the following Sheets, and you will soon see Folly in its proper Light, and learn to despise, instead of listening to, the Impotence of Defamation.

But to the Matter in Hand; *London*, 'tis true, has more Reason than any City of *Europe* to beware of *Projects*, for they have frequently prov'd ruinous to many of her Inhabitants.

Tricks and Cheats dress'd up with Artifice, and cover'd with the specious Show of publick Good, or private Benefit, have tempted many, and made wild Havock among credulous People; but is That a Reason, why they shou'd never listen to a new Proposal? No sure! It rather ought to teach them always to weigh a Proposition well, before they close with it; for the same calm Thought and serious Reflection, which will easily convince them of the Security, and firm Foundation of such an Offer, as is here made them, wou'd as certainly have detected and expos'd the false Bottom of the Pro-

jects, which they suffer'd by; and so prevented their own, and other People's Disappointments.

This word *Project* is now become downright scandalous, and if we take it in the common Sense or Acceptation, it ought for ever to continue so.

But I wou'd have you distinguish, that the Business we are now upon, is no *Project*; 'tis a *Discovery*; A *Project* is a Notion, which, having no real or visible Existence, the Issue subsists at best upon a precarious Probability. But a *Discovery* is a Secret in Nature, or in Art, which having long lain hid, is brought to light by some fortunate Accident, pretends to nothing, but what Experience justifies, and carries its Demonstration along with it.

For Example, The frequent Attempts which have been made, to turn baser Metals into Gold, commonly called the *Philosopher's Stone*, these were *Project*; And the Knowledge of the magnetical Virtue in the Loadstone, to which we owe the Compass, and its vast Improvement in the Art of Navigation, this was *Discovery*.

People, who are apt to think slightly of these Matters, shou'd be taught to know, that the Inventors of useful Arts were held *Sacred* by the Wisdom of ancient Ages, and so far were People then from the present Practice of discountenancing Endeavours, conducive to the general Interest of Mankind, that they fell into the quite contrary Extream, and express'd the overflowing of their Zeal and good Will, by a downright Idolatry, worshipping them as Gods, and raising Altars, to adorn and eternize their Memory.

Thus was *Bacchus* made a Deity, for no other Reason than that he taught the Use of Grapes, and first drank Wine with his Cotemporaries, who before were ignorant

rant of any such extraordinary Vertue, in a Fruit, which was familiar to their Taste, and grew at large on every Mountain.

The Wisdom of our Rulers has not, perhaps, enough consider'd, what a Benefit the Nation wou'd receive from the Establishment of what I may call a *College of Arts*, of which I shall one Day speak more at large, and in which our aptest Youth might be instructed in the Theory of all such Knowledge, as relates to the Improvement of our Trade and Manufactures, and then sent abroad into all Parts of the commercial World, with constant and generous Allowances, to observe and compare the Practices of other Nations, and labour to improve on their Remarks, by any accidental Hints, which such extended Views might give a Being to; as an Encouragement to which, they shou'd become entitled to certain known and stated Profits, Honours, and Distinctions, if at their Return, they cou'd communicate a Secret, useful to their Country.

I cannot help observing with a very great Concern, that by the unhappy Influence of Custom, the Learning most in Use amongst us, is least *Useful*; I think it is *Ramus*, who is somewhere of Opinion, that no Man of Letters ought to value himself upon his Skill in natural Philosophy, unless he can by Application of that Skill demonstrate himself, in the Effects, a better *Gardner*, *Husbandman*, or *Merchant*, than a common Dealer in those Arts; for, says he, 'tis justly we abhor and despise the idle Ostentation of sophisticated Universities.

'Tis for want of looking out upon the World, and understanding *Things*, as well as *Books*, that our Men of Learning are not far more serviceable to themselves, and the Publick, than they have hitherto been; Were Practice substituted in the Room of Speculation, the good Effects of Knowledge wou'd become as *visible*, as they are *excellent*.

Examples



Examples best illustrate an Assertion; and Instances abound upon the Case before us.

*Thales the Milesian* is the eldest Name in Philosophy; This good Man endeavouring to convince the Rich and Fortunate of his Time, that true Happiness consisted in the Practice of severer Virtues than they cared to be acquainted with, Experienc'd that the Quality of the Instructor wou'd be first regarded, and then a Judgment form'd upon the Worth of the Instruction.

As soon as he discover'd the Disease, he apply'd a Remedy; he foresaw in a Year of Plenty, by his Knowledge in natural Causes, that the following Season wou'd be liable to weather, that must damnify the Plants, and most especially the *Olive-Trees*, a Misfortune which hardly happen'd in an Age in that Country; upon this he finds means to engross and bargain for all the Oil he cou'd procure, at a very low and inconsiderable Rate; The next Year comes on, the Olives are destroy'd, the Commodity rises most prodigiously, and so the natural Consequence of this Bargain made him at once the *richest* Man of all his Nation, and the *more natural* Consequence of That, was, that every Body presently acknowledg'd him the *Wise*st.

I will tell you another Story, and bring the Matter nearer home.

It is not out of some Men's Remembrance, that a young Gentleman, of no Fortune, a Student at *Oxford*, fell in Love with an Inn-Keeper's Daughter of that Town, whose Circumstances were very narrow; he had Philosophy enough to despise superfluous Wealth; and Judgment to foresee the Necessity of a Competence; but Love was Headstrong, and too hard for Reason, so that, after a Year or two's ineffectual Delay, they bid defiance to their Stars, and had Courage enough



to marry; The Scholar gain'd a Wife, and lost a Fellowship, the only small Subsistence he before depended on.

Our Inn-Keeper often upbraided the Bridegroom with the barren Effects of his Learning, and thought it very strange, as he well might, that while every Body told him, his Son-in-Law was a great Scholar, his whole Stock of Knowledge cou'd not help him to one Penny of his own getting.

Six or seven Months after this Marriage, the Father-in-Law dies, miserably poor, and the Credit, which his Industry maintain'd in his Life-time, dying with him, the Goods he left behind were seiz'd on by his Creditors, and the Student and his young Wife turn'd out of Doors, to eat the Bread of Fortune, where they cou'd find it.

The Wife had a Relation in Town, unable to contribute any great Assistance, she took them however into a Garret of her House, where the Man cou'd only waste his Hours between Books and Sighs, while the Partner of his Sorrows made hard shift to pick up a Support by *Knitting Stockings*, at a certain common Price for every Pair.

At last, by a growing Belly, their Cares at once became more weighty, and their Patience less fortify'd; The only Subject of their Conversation now, was their melancholy Dread of what wou'd become of the poor Infant, who was to be born a Beggar.

But sitting constantly together from Morning to Night, the Scholar often fix'd his Eyes with stedfast Observation on the Motion of his Wife's Fingers, in the dextrous Management of her Needles; He took it into his Imagination, that it was not impossible to contrive a little *Loom*, which might do the Work with much more Expedition.

This

This Thought he communicated to his Wife, and joining his Head to her Hands, the Endeavour succeeded to their Wish, and thus the ingenious *Stocking Loom*, which is so common now, was first invented, by which he did not only make himself and his Family happy, but has left his Nation indebted to him for a Benefit, which enables us to export Silk Stockings in great Quantities, and to a vast Advantage, to those very Countries, from whence before, we us'd to bring them at considerable Loss in the Balance of our Traffick.

A Thousand like Improvements in every Trade, and every Nation, may, and will undoubtedly be made, when Accident or Necessity shall stir up the Imagination of industrious Men, to draw aside the Veil, which now conceals them.

I know not any Thing, which is a greater national Misfortune, than a general Byass towards enslaving Judgment to Success; we seldom Measure our Opinions by the Reason of the Point in Question, but the previous Fortune of some Matter like it; Thus, if it happens, that a great and noble Undertaking, by some Accident has fail'd of the Success expected, every Proposal, which has the Misfortune to come after it, is without Examination compar'd to it, and condemn'd by Wholesale; and if on the contrary, any idle Project has succeeded well, Whatever rash, ridiculous Attempt has the good Luck to follow That, is sure to be encourag'd, and cry'd up, with as unjudging and precipitate a Violence, as the contrary had been decry'd and vilify'd.

I will Instance this in a particular Case or two, which almost every Man of Business can remember:

Captain *William Phipps*, who was afterwards made Sir *William Phipps* for his good Fortune, came over from *New England* in the Year 1687, and prevail'd upon the  
Duke

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Duke of *Albemarle*, Sir *James Hays*, and several other Gentlemen, to send him back with a good Ship, and all Things necessary, to dive, or fish, as I may call it, for a great Heap of Gold and Silver, which lay at the Bottom of the Sea, God knows how many Fathoms deep, in a *Spanish* Vessel, that had been cast away in the *West Indies*; Never sure were any Men of common Sense embark'd in a more unpromising Adventure; 'twas above a Million to one against them, and if they had fail'd, the Attempt had been made the standing Jest of the whole Nation; but they succeeded even against all Prospect of Probability, and were enrich'd by the Accident; and the Consequence of this was, that a thousand Families have been since undone, by sending their Estates a Diving after Shipwreck'd Treasure.

On the contrary, there have, since that Time, been set on Foot two *Unsuccessful* Undertakings; The making of *Salt-Petre*, and the *Mine-Adventure*; one of which, in my Opinion, seems at least to have been founded on a very probable Expectation; but it happen'd, that they fail'd the Hopes of those concern'd, and every Thing that has been since propos'd, is presently reject'd with a silly Grin, a Shake of the Head, and, *Ay, This is just such a great Business, such an enriching, profitable Project, as the Salt-Petre Works, and the Mine-Adventure.*

A reasonable Man shou'd be asham'd of shooting thus at Random; it is not only a private Folly, but a national Disadvantage, that we indulge our selves in such little narrow Views of Things; These confin'd and selfish Understandings generally distinguish ignorant Men; you shall never fail to know a Fool, by his abounding with Impossibilities, and you may presently set your Mark upon a Man, who tells you, he can't believe such and such a Thing, *because, if it had been in Nature, it had certainly been found out before our Time*; Had all our Ancestors been just as wise as He, they might have held their Hands in their Pockets, and gravely concluded,  
that



that *Apricocks* and *Peaches*, and *Hops* and *Cherries* wou'd not have grown in *England*, for it is not much above an Age, since they knew it by Experience.

Can any Thing be easier or less dangerous, than to hear at large, what a Man can say for any Scheme he has to offer? Our Opinion is our own still, and we may judge as we think proper; but to refuse to be convinc'd, and then conclude a Thing impossible, is like swinking hard at Noon-Day, and swearing, It is Mid-night.

A free and open Ear shou'd still be lent to all Pretences for the publick Good, or indeed towards bettering a Man's private Condition; we can lose nothing by listening, and may without the smallest Hazard reject the *Bad*, and embrace the *Good* of every new Proposal.

Had such a Spirit as this prevail'd amongst us, the War we have so much complain'd of, had been found no Burthen; Our Taxes had been equal, easy, and un-felt; Our Fishery had not been the Treasure of the Dutch; Our Trade had been enlarg'd; Our Lands improv'd; Our People multiplied; And our *Poor* instead of crowding our Streets with Objects of Misery, had been made a happy Means of new Advantages and Honour to the Nation.

But *England* is not chang'd from what she was of old; Her cunning Natives have been ever thus sharp-sighted in discovering *Impossibilities*; a most unhappy Genius! which often makes us *laugh* indeed, tho' we very rarely chance to win by it.

The Honour of discovering the new World might have been ours, but that our then Politicians were mercifully dispos'd, and laugh'd us out of the Wealth of the Indies.

Had



Had Columbus sail'd for Henry the Seventh, of England, as he did for Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain, we had really as well as nominally held the Balance of Europe.

Were it not for the natural Tendency of some Men's Genius to searches after new Discoveries; our heavy headed Impossibility Men had still eat Roots, and like their Brother Savages of America, had felt their Bodies as indifferently cloath'd, as their unfurnish'd Understandings.

'Tis an amazing Reflection, that a Man can put on his Shoes, his Shirt, his Coat; That he can eat Bread, drink Wine, or Ale, or read or write, or do any, even the commonest and most familiar Business of Life, without remembring that he owes the very Power of doing what he is about, to a Blessing of humane Nature, which he is every Day prophaning, under the Name of Project.

The most ignorant Clodpate in a whole Knot of Project-Killers daily warms himself by as good a Fire as he can get; he knows that it burns and has Heat, because it makes him rub his Shins, when he sits too close to it; but ask him for a Reason, why it does so, and he can give you none, *but because it does so*; Custom has made the Fact familiar to his Senses, and he never contemplates the Strangeness of the Object.

The same wise Enemy to Arts can look upon a Peice of Cloth in the Draper's Shop, is skilful enough to know the Fine from the Course, and the Cheap from the Dear; but as to the Skill, the Invention, by which it is brought to the Form he sees it in; why, That he thinks is no great Matter of Wonder; but show him, how to trace the Wool from the Sheep's Back, through all its numerous Changes, to its last Perfection, and then let him

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him ask himself, whether he thinks the Nation had got so many Millions by this Woolen-Manufacture, if some Body had not been wiser than He.

Let him but look back, and consider himself as born in one of the Infant Ages of the World, before the Art of *Writing*, or making Paper was discover'd; and a thousand to one but he had laugh'd till his Sides shook, when first he heard talk of a new Project, that was on Foot, forsooth, to converse with one another at a hundred Miles distance, and explain a Man's Thoughts to a Friend without speaking a Word, by sending him a Parcel of black Marks, drawn out with a Pencil upon the inner Bark of a Cherry-Tree.

As common as these Things are become now, they had a Beginning, and were undoubtedly consider'd by unthinking Men, in as silly a Light as I place them; so will a thousand great Inventions more, which if any Body were to set about in publick, People wou'd look upon him as no better than a Madman.

Even Printing, Sailing by the Compass, and the dreadful Art of making Gun-Powder; are all Discoveries, as it were of Yesterday.

*Old Stow* and many other Authors will inform you, what prodigious Slanders, Calumnies and Opposition, That noble and useful Undertaking of the New River met with, even to the Ruin of the poor Gentleman who first attempted it: But Experience having now convinc'd the World, that such a Thing was possible, the Malice is forgotten with the Glory, and it ceases to be a Wonder:

Every Body remembers with a malicious Pleasure the Disappointments, which have been occasion'd by a few unfortunate Endeavours, and can too readily apply the Examples upon all Occasions; but no Man takes Pains  
to

to carry in his Memory the *fortunate* Adventures and Discoveries, which have been made, tho' in Number far superior to the other.

For Example, 'tis not much above fourscore Years ago, that an honest plain Man discover'd the Way of *burning Bricks with Sea-Coal*, and began to practise it in Publick at his own Works; Upon this the rest of his Fraternity, with all the common Inhumanity of Malice, derided, and expos'd him; insomuch that his Attempt became the standing Banter of their silly Clubs, and made up all their Conversation.

They went on thus merrily, 'till at the End of a Year or two, in the midst of their Pleasantry, their Trade fell off at once, by the Increase of their Rival's Business, and they saw themselves reduc'd to a Necessity of quitting their old beaten Road to follow that, which they had made so free with, or they must soon have wanted Bread to the good Drink, they had been so merry over.

The late Duke of *Buckingham* was, I think, the first who encourag'd and set on Foot, the Art of making here in *England*, that fine clear Sort of Glass for Coaches, and the Pannels between Chamber-Windows; He was follow'd with Success by some other ingenious Men, and every Body knows, that now, instead of paying vast Sums of Money every Year to *Italy* for this kind of Ware, we make as fine Glass as any in the World, and that our Merchants export great Quantities to their considerable Profit, and the Nations no small Advantage.

In *Venice* this Art of improving Glass was carried to a yet higher Perfection; for a certain Tradesman of that City had invented a Way to make it malleable, that is, to lose its brittle Nature, and to bear beating into any Form with a Hammer, like a Piece of Iron, without being robb'd of its Transparency, and the Reward this no-

ble Discoverer met with for his Pains, was, that the Glass-Makers found Means to hire a Set of Ruffians to dog him in a dark Night, as he came from the Opera, who tied a Stone about his Neck, and drown'd him in one of the common Water-Courses of the City.

All *Europe* knows, that *France*, almost in the Minority of her present King, was forc'd, at a most prodigious annual Expence, to buy her Silks from *Italy*. *Mulberries*, 'twas plain, would never grow in that cold Country, and the *Silk Manufacture* could not be expected to thrive so much nearer to the North: Their Frosts would kill the Worms; or, if not, the Profit of their Labour would be doubly eat out by the Charges.

In the Midst of all these *invincible* Difficulties, Monsieur *Colbert*, and certain other great Spirits among them, despising the common Cant of such ridiculous Objections, resolved at least to put it to a Tryal, and found it at once inexpressibly easy, and immensely profitable. Their King's Revenue richly feels the Benefit of these Gentlemens Industry; and the *impossible* Silk Trade of those Parts now gives Subsistence to above a hundred thousand of their Families.

Thus *France*, as well as *England*, produces some of these Lethargick Animals: But in the Case before us, publick Experience made them blush at the Remembrance of their Ignorance; and to atone for past Folly, they fell in among the foremost to the Practice of this Art, which has added so much Honour to the Name of *France*, and such a Treasure to their Country.

So that admit a *French* Man heavy, he is not, we see, *incorrigible*. Example has at worst the Power to animate the heaviest of their Clods: But let us compare the *French* Men of those Days with their Cotemporaries of our Island, and their Darkness will appear bright, by the Inequality of the Comparifon.



*England* had then a Prince upon her Throne, as watchful for his Country's Good as any Monarch who has reign'd before or after him. It was King *James* the First, who being rous'd to Emulation by so noble an Example, strove with equal Ardour, but a very different Success, to fire the Breasts of People, not, it seems, inspired with equal Spirit.

I will here, though it be a little digressive from my Purpose, insert at large the very Letter, which this Learned Prince compos'd and writ with his own Hand to the Lieutenants of all the Two and fifty Counties of his Kingdom, because it is not only a Curiosity in it self, but may serve to set before us an Example of Stupidity, which the Nation in general will never again, I hope, be guilty of.

*A Copy of King James's Letter.*

JAMES R.



*Right Trusty and Well-beloved, We greet you well.*

‘ IT is a principal Part of that Christian Care which  
 ‘ appertains to Sovereignty, to endeavour by all Means  
 ‘ possible, as well to beget as to encrease among their People  
 ‘ the Knowledge and Practice of all Arts and Trades,  
 ‘ that thereby they may be both wean’d from Idleness,  
 ‘ and the Enormities thereof, which are infinite, and become  
 ‘ exercised in such Industries and Labours, as are  
 ‘ accompanied with evident Hopes, not only of preserving  
 ‘ People from the Shame and Grief of Penury, but also  
 ‘ of raising and encreasing them in Wealth and Abundance,  
 ‘ the Scope which every free-born Spirit aims at,  
 ‘ not in Regard of himself only, and the Ease which a  
 ‘ plentiful Estate brings to every one in his particular

Condition, but also in Regard of the Honour of their  
 native Country, whose Commendation is no way more  
 set forth, than in the Peoples Activeness and Industry.  
 The Consideration hereof having of late employ'd our  
 Mind, who always esteem our Peoples Good our necessary  
 Contemplation, we have conceiv'd, as well by the  
 Discourse of our own Reason, as by Information gather'd  
 from others, that the Making of *Silk* might as well  
 be effected here, as it is in the Kingdom of *France*,  
 where it has of late been put in Practice; for neither is  
 the Climate of this Isle so far distinct or different in  
 Condition from that Country, especially from the hither  
 Parts thereto, but that it is to be hop'd, that those  
 Things, which by Industry prosper there, may by like  
 Industry have like Success here; and many private Persons,  
 who for their Pleasure have bred of those Worms,  
 have found by Experience, that they may be nourished  
 and maintained here, if Provision were made for Planting  
 of Mulberry-Trees, whose Leaves are the Food of the  
 Worms: And therefore we have thought good hereby  
 to let you understand, that although in suffering this  
 Invention to take Place, we shew our selves somewhat  
 an Adversary to our Profit, by diminishing our Customs  
 for Silk brought from beyond the Seas, nevertheless  
 when there is so great a publick Utility to our Kingdom  
 and Subjects in general, and whereby (besides  
 Multitudes of People of both Sexes, and all Ages) such  
 as, in regard of Incapacity, are unfit for other Labour,  
 may be set at work, comforted, and relieved, we are  
 content that our private Benefit shall give way to the  
 publick: And therefore, being perswaded that no well-  
 affected Subject will refuse to put his helping Hand to  
 such a Work, as can have no other End in us but the  
 Desire of the Welfare of our People, we have thought  
 good in this Form to require you (as a Person of greatest  
 Authority in that County, and from whom the Generality  
 may receive Notice of our Pleasure with more  
 Conveniency than otherwise) to take Occasion, either  
 at the Quarter-Sessions, or at some other publick Place  
 of

of Meeting, to perswade and require such as are of Ability (without descending to trouble the Poor, for whom we seek to provide) to buy and distribute in that County the Number of Ten thousand Mulberry-Plants, which shall be delivered unto them at our City of — at the Rate of three Farthings the Plant, or at six Shillings the Hundred, containing five Score Plants. And because the Buying of the said Plants at this Rate may at the first seem chargeable to our said Subjects, (whom we would be loth to burthen) we have taken Order, that in *March* or *April* next, there shall be deliver'd at the same Place a good Quantity of Mulberry-Seeds, there to be sold to such as will buy them, by Means whereof the said Plants will be deliver'd at a smaller Rate than they can be afforded, being carried from hence; having resolved also in the mean time, that there shall be publish'd in Print a plain Instruction and Direction, both for the increasing of the said Mulberry-Trees, the breeding of the Silk-Worms, and all other Things needful to be understood, for the perfecting a Work every way so commendable and profitable, as well to the Planter, as to those who shall use the Trade. Having now made known unto you the Motives, as they stand with the publick Good, wherein every Man is interested, because we know how much the Example of our own Lieutenants and Justices will further the Cause. If you and other your Neighbours will be content to take some good Quantities hereof to distribute upon your own Lands, we are content to acknowledge thus much more, that all Things of this nature tending to Plantation, Increase of Science, and Works of Industry, are Things so naturally pleasing to our own Disposition, as we shall take it for an Argument of extraordinary Affection towards our Person, and form our Judgment of your Dispositions, as you shall express in any kind your ready Minds to further the same, and shall esteem that in furthering the same, you seek to further our Honour and Contentment (having seen in a few Years past, that our



Brother the French King, has, since his coming to the Crown, both begun and brought to Perfection the making of Silks in his Country, whereby he has won to himself Honour, and to his Subjects a marvellous Increase of Wealth) we should account it no little Happiness to us, if the same Work, which we begin among our People, with no less Zeal to their Good (than any Prince can have to the Good of his) might in our Time produce the Fruits which there it has done; whereof we nothing doubt, for ours will surely not be found less tractable and apt to further their own Good, now the Way is shew'd them by Us their Sovereign, than those of *France* have been to conform themselves to the Direction of their King. Given under our Signet at our Palace of *Westminster*, the sixteenth of *November*, in the sixth Year of *England*, *France* and *Ireland*, and of *Scotland* the two and fortieth.

You see here a King, endeavouring by the Force of promised Rewards and threatned Punishments, to make his People only sensible of their own Interest, and condescending even to play the Gardener and the Seedsman to accomplish his Design. And what do you think was the Effect of all his Reasons? Why scarce a Man thought decently of his Attempt; Not a Seed was sown; Not a Tree was planted; But the merry Creatures laugh'd immoderately at their good old Sovereign's being turn'd *Projector*, while they universally neglected and despised the Excellence of his Intention.

After This I hope you will not wonder, that the Industry of private Men is misinterpreted, malign'd, and render'd fruitless, when a mighty King, with all his Strength of Power and Persuasion, addressing himself to a People who had sworn Obedience to his Orders, could meet no better Success in Pursuit of an Attempt which he begun, and push'd, with such a generous Vehemence.

Even



Even our boasted Woollen Manufacture is in a manner new amongst us. Every Body knows that till the Reign of one of our *Edwards*, we were forc'd to send abroad our unwrought Wool to *Antwerp*, and other Places, there to be made into Cloth, and then brought back, and sold to us again at a Price so extravagant, that the Nation was *impoverished* by the very Wool, which has since those Times been found the only Means of making us a *Rich* and *Flourishing* People; So necessary and beneficial is a due Encouragement of national Industry.

There is scarce a Silk-Weaver, Hatter, Pewterer, or any other Tradesman amongst us, but can remember, if he pleases, what vast Improvements, in his particular Calling, he has in his own Time been a Witness to the Discovery of.

But to bring this Argument still closer to our Purpose, there is a common Trade now carried on in every Corner of *Great Britain*, and which is therefore never taken Notice of as a Thing extraordinary; I mean the *Rape-Trade*; that is, the making great Quantities of *Oil* from *Rape-Seed*, or *Cole-Seed*, which is positively the clearest and the fullest Proof that can be wish'd for, of the Profit and Infallibility of the *Beech-Oil Discovery*: And he who first brought into Practice this Rape-Oil Trade, wanted nothing but the Prudence of soliciting a Patent, which he was undoubtedly entitled to, to have made himself the Master of as great a Fortune as any in the Kingdom. Hundreds yearly at this very Day get Estates by that Trade, which at Four Shillings a Bushel produces *less* Oil, and far *worse*, than our *Beech-Mast*, which can never cost Six Pence *per* Bushel.

The Land that bears this Rape is let at an extraordinary Rent, and cultivated at a vast and constant Expence. The Seed is sow'd and reap'd with much Toil and Hazard, and all this Pains and Charge must be repeated annually;

whereas in making Beech-Oil, we have, without any ploughing or sowing, a common Forest Product to work upon, more plentiful in most Places than the very Acorns, and of less reputed Value, as will by and by be prov'd beyond a Possibility of Contradiction. Our Charges therefore can be nothing but the Price of shaking the Trees, and sweeping up our Harvest, of which, one Bushel, as you may see experienc'd every Day, yields more Oil, and better, than the same Quantity of Rape-Seed, and yet the Rape-Seed is obtain'd at almost ten times the Hazard, Expence and Inconvenience.

I will add a Word or two in general by way of Advice, That, to prevent a frequent Overlooking such Advantages as these, People would begin to think a little more of their private Business, and trouble themselves less with the Concerns of the Publick; and then I hasten more particularly to the Design in Hand.

It is impossible for any Man, but one who has experienc'd it, so much as to imagine what a Number of these profitable Secrets might be easily discovered. This is a Way of growing rich, not only far more ready, but more delightful too, than any of the common ones. It makes a Thousand other Peoples Fortunes, at the same Time that it improves your own.

I am almost afraid to venture such a Declaration among the dissingenuous Tempers of Mankind, or I could instance and disclose some Six or Seven such Examples, which I have my self discover'd in my small Pursuit of Nature, as might animate the dullest Clod, and would perhaps awake the sleepy Genius of our Nation.

It wou'd be very ill-natur'd to put a wrong Interpretation upon my Meaning in this Place; I wou'd not have you believe, I look upon my self, as Master of a sharper Sight than other People. That Kind of Vanity, if a Man  
can

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can know himself, is not my Fault, and I readily declare, that there is no great Merit in Discoveries of this Nature: They are meerly owing to a Virtue very common, but generally misapply'd; The plain Effect of downright Industry, and Thinking a little out of the beaten Road.

If any Body wonders then that such Discoveries are not more frequent, since we have a great many wise and industrious Men in *England*, the Answer is plain; Most Men are from their Infancy design'd to some particular Way of Life; They are either born to Estates, which draw them on to Pleasures, incompatible with the Severity of Thinking, Or they are bred to Divinity, or Law, or Trade, or some known Track of Business, the Pursuit of which gives them no Leisure to think of other Matters, and brings them in a *certain little* Profit, which they think it imprudent to abandon for an *uncertain Greater*; Or they are busied in Endeavours to procure and preserve some great Man's Favour; They are looking out for Posts at Court, or elsewhere; Thus in different Spheres, the Generality of Mankind are engag'd in Applications, which requiring all their Stock of Thought, leave them no Room to trace such Views, as I am speaking of; which, however easy to the Search, must, notwithstanding, be the Product of Solitude and Retirement.

To be a little more particular, and justify the general Assurance I just now gave you; that my own Experience has demonstrated, how very well worth a Man's while it is, to bend his Thoughts this Way; I think my self oblig'd to declare, at least by two or three Examples, upon what Foundations I took the Liberty to speak in that manner.

Every Body knows that *Bees-Wax* is a Commodity generally consumed, not only in this Kingdom, but all over *Europe*, and that most People of Fashion burn great Quantities of Wax-Candles in their Houses, which they buy

buy at a considerable Charge; And yet there is a common Vegetable, almost the Growth of every Hedge, which yields a Wax, even finer than this Bees-Wax, at an Expence so inconsiderable, that I am very sure, and cou'd prove it, if I pleas'd, that in the Practice of the Thing, a Pound of such Wax-Candles wou'd not cost Three Half-pence:

And here, to spoil the Sport of a few shallow Wretches, who are very fond of an Opportunity, to expose themselves to the Remark of an old Proverb, That the greatest Fool is the loudest Laugher; I must inform them, That as strange a Secret, as they will think this, there is nothing of wonder in it; for every Sea-Captain, who has been us'd to Trade upon the Continent of *America*, is very well acquainted with the *Myrtle Wax-Candles* of *Carolina*, *Virginia*, and other Plantations.

Now, if in these Countries, which have been so long possess'd by the *English*, it is a usual Thing to make Wax-Candles of a common Berry which grows upon the Myrtle-Tree, pray which in Reason ought to be esteem'd the greatest Wonder? That a Secret, chiefly owing to the Imitation of this Practice, shou'd be now discover'd here in *England*, or that it shou'd not have been found out by the same Means half an Age ago?

Another Discovery, which is rather more extraordinary than the foregoing, after several failing Attempts, has perfectly succeeded, and I have lately bestow'd it upon an honest Gentleman, who will soon by open Practice, to his vast Advantage, demonstrate to the World a Secret, which, like the Egg of *Columbus*, must appear so easy, that the only Wonder will be, why every Body did not hit upon it; The Fact is this, that the Charge of a single Penny, exclusive of the Price of Coals, produces a Gallon of *Aqua-vita*, much fitter for all common Uses, than the thrice rectify'd Spirit of Malt.

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I was once discoursing with a Gentleman concerning the Oil, which we now make from Beech-Mast, after it has for so many hundred Years been trampled under Foot in every Wood, and look'd upon as good for just nothing, but feeding Hogs; I wish Sir, said the Gentleman, smiling, you cou'd find out some profitable Use for *Acorns*, as well as Beech-Mast, for I believe I have two or three hundred thousand Bushels this Year upon my own Oaks; I told him, that if he cou'd be serious enough to thank me for my Pains, I wou'd make those *Acorns* worth almost as much Money as the Oaks they grew upon; he seem'd to think me not in Earnest, till, to convince him that I was, I told him, that while the *Tanners* give such Rates for the *Bark* of those Trees, they wou'd do well to make Use of the *Fruit* only: For in *Italy* and all over the *Archipelago*, they use nothing in the Tanning Trade, but *dry'd Acorns*, which being beaten down with Poles, in vast Quantities, and at an inconsiderable Expence, are afterwards ground to powder, as our *Bark* is, and us'd for the same Purposes, with a much better Effect; they call it in their Tongue *Velania*: What use the Gentleman thought fit to make of the Opportunity put into his Hands, I know not, but I am very sure, it was his own Fault, if in such a Year as this, which is none of the best neither for *Acorns*, he neglected a Business, by which any Man might have got a very good Estate, without much Charge, and with no manner of Hazard.

But to what Purpose shou'd I enumerate these Instances, which I am morally assur'd the invincible Stupidity of an unthinking Age, will rather turn into Ridicule, than believe, or make the proper Use of; However, if they serve to stir up the Fire of some wiser Men's Ingenuity, my Country will be benefited, and my Design has succeeded; I pay back the Impudence of Folly, with an equal Weight of Scorn.

And

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And here, since I have ventur'd to stand out a Mark for Censure, by hinting one or two, out of many useful Discoveries, which I have my self been fortunate enough to make, even in the Morning of my Life, and for the Truth of all which I can appeal to living Witnesses, I will go on yet further, and do engage my self by solemn Promise to my Country, to demonstrate a much greater seeming Impossibility, if I have the Honour of a Vote in the next Parliament, in gratitude to those honest Burgeses, who were lately pleas'd to send me up an Invitation to represent them, under the common Seal of their Corporation.

To express my Meaning well, I must take Notice, that while every Man is forward enough to run with the Herd, and complain how many Millions the Nation stands endebted for, no Body thinks himself concern'd so far as to consider, by what Means the publick Credit may be clear'd from so prodigious an Incumbrance; we are poorly contented to look upon it as a Thing impossible; and yet is This Giant's Task an easy Undertaking, and cannot but be universally acknowledg'd so, as soon as the Proposition shall be made in Parliament, where immediate Birth may at any Time be given to a Fund, which, without the least Oppression or Complaint, will be capable to supply at once as many Millions, as will pay off all the Debts of the Nation, and deliver us from *Poors-Rates, Excise, Land-Tax*, or almost any Tax at all for ever after.

Unequal Taxes are the Ruin of a Kingdom, and while it is the hardest Task of publick Care to divide This necessary Burthen fairly, The design'd Proposal is so fully Equal, that it will affect each several Member of the Body Politic in a due Proportion to the Difference of Circumstances.

Instead of oppressing and lying heavy upon Trade and  
Manu-

Manufacture, the Influence of this Fund, will almost double the Benefit, and Ease of Either.

'Tis a new, unheard of Kind of Contribution; and while every single Person in the Kingdom joins to raise it, it will, notwithstanding That, be paid insensibly.

It cannot but be welcome to the People, because no Man will know that he pays a Farthing; nay, he now pays the same Money over and above all Taxes, which, by being made a Tax, will become the only Tax he has to pay.

Every Man in the Kingdom, consider'd in his private Capacity, will save a great deal more Money by paying this, than his Share in the Payment can counterbalance:

It will be capable of almost infinite Improvement; It will immediately bring in a Revenue of four Millions a Year, and add to the national Stock of Money above four and twenty Millions *Sterling*.

It differs from all other general Contributions in This Particular; That tho' the Charge of collecting it will be very great, tho' no Way dangerous, yet it is provided for by a Means arising within it self, and will occasion no Deduction from the Revenue it produces.

It will naturally, and without Compulsion, reduce the Interest of Money to 3 or 4 *per Cent*, and consequently raise the Purchase of Land in the same Proportion:

In short, It will change at once the Condition of the Publick, from very uneasy to compleatly happy, and not a Man draws Breath amongst us, but will share the Benefit.

I have

I have taken This Task upon me, and will in due Time make it Good; Mean while I leave it to the Buz of many an idle Fly, who will undoubtedly be blowing on it, and return to my subject, from which I only digress'd, to give another Proof, that Things, which seem impossible, are very easy to the Reach of Application.

Nothing is more common in the Mouths of our People, than that all Trades are overstock'd with Numbers of Professors, and that they eat the Bread out of one another's Mouths. If this be true, there is no Remedy so good for the Disease, as That which I am recommending; Every new Discovery in Trade lays open a new Mine of Treasure, and disburdens the overloaded Professions; for the more new Trades arise, the fewer Professors will encumber the old Ones, and consequently the greater will their Profits be, and the less the Misery and Poverty of the Nation:

But I have now done with the Introduction; and will hasten to the more immediate Business of the Book; which is, to give you; *First*, A particular Account of the Invention it self; *Secondly*, By what means I first became Master of it; next, what Steps I took to experience, and make sure the Benefits which might attend it; Then all that has been hitherto done in the Affair; And lastly, What further Measures I propose to take, in order to the general Establishment, and carrying on so great and weighty a Concern.





# EXPLANATION

## OF THE

# DISCOVERY.

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 T H A T you may the better understand,  
 what this Discovery means, and what  
 prodigious Benefit will accrue to the  
 Nation by it, you must first know, that  
 the two great Trades of the Soap-maker  
 and Clothier do wholly depend upon  
 Oil, which is for the most Part brought in from beyond-  
 Sea, and costs the Nation many Millions, as you will see  
 plainly prov'd, beyond all Possibility of Contradiction.

There is in all the Forests of *England* a very common  
 Tree, call'd a Beech-Tree; much larger than the Oak;  
 There are vast Woods almost every where, of nothing  
 else but this Beech; most of our Noblemen, and private  
 Gentlemen have large Quantities, and some of them se-  
 veral thousand Acres of Beech in their own Estates, as  
 particularly the Duke of *Somerset*, the Earl of *Dorset*,  
 the

the Earl of *Scarborough*, the Earl of *Winchelsea*, and an endless Number more in all Parts of the Kingdom.

There are within forty Miles round *London*, many hundred thousand Acres of full grown, bearing Beech, almost without any other Tree intermix'd with them.

Nothing is more common than for one of these Beech-Trees to bear fifty Bushels of that three corner'd Beech-Mast, of which you have a Sample sent you with this Book, as you also have of the outward Husk, in which it grows, tho' I don't reckon the Husk, but the Kernels only, when I say that it is a common Thing for one Tree to bear fifty Bushels of Beech-Mast.

About the latter End of *September*, the Husks, which hang like Ropes of Onions, and weigh down the Branches, open of their own Accord, and let fall the Mast, three corner'd as you see it, in such vast Quantity, that the Ground is every where cover'd over with it several Inches deep.

Some Part of This the Hogs devour, or in Parks the Deer; The rest, having no known Use, lies rotting on the Ground, and Spoils the Herbage. 'Tis hardly ever known to be gather'd, and when it is, the Poor have Six-pence, or Eight-pence a Bushel for picking it up, and carrying it to some honest Farmer's Wife, for a favourite Hog, or so, that is to be kill'd against Christmas.

Now the Discovery is This; That every Bushel of This common Mast, which has lain neglected and despised for so many Ages, is found to yield two Gallons of much better Oil, than That made of Olives, which the Clothiers and Soap-Makers call *Seville-Oil*, or *Galipoli-Oil*, and for which the Nation pays such prodigious Sums of Money to Foreigners.

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So that This Discovery, hitherto a Secret, adds an Honour, and a Profit to the Publick; and may therefore fairly be allow'd to give a private Benefit to him, who brings it into Practice; And the Malice and Ill-nature it has met with, will be condemn'd by every honest Man, as a Discouragement to Industry, and dishonourable to the Character of our Countrymen in General.

You are not desir'd to take my Word for any Thing, I have affirm'd; you shall in the following Part of this Discourse, have such undeniable Proofs, and Demonstration, that no Man in his Senses will presume hereafter to open his Mouth in Opposition to it.

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*An Account of the Time When, and manner How, This Discovery was first made.*

I Was a Boy, not quite fifteen Years old, when I first left *England*, in the Year 1699, and began those Travels, which, till a few Years since, kept me out a constant Wanderer over most Parts of the World.

I came in the Year 1700, to *Naples*, where carelessly neglecting a little Cold, I had got, it became on a Sudden very troublesome and violent.

I apply'd my self for Advice to an Apothecary, at whose House I happen'd to lodge, and after several unsuccessful Attempts in his common Rules, he desir'd me to drink a pretty large Quantity of Oil of sweet Almonds.

I had a very strong Aversion to Oil, of any Kind, and cou'd not be prevail'd upon to follow this Advice,  
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till he told me, that if I lov'd the Almonds themselves, I cou'd not dislike their Oil, which was pure, and simple, and obtain'd by only pounding, and pressing them; And that if I wou'd, I shou'd see the Manner they us'd to make it in.

I accepted This offer, and stood by, while his Servant weigh'd out a Parcel of Almonds, and throwing them into a large Mortar, beat them a long Time with a heavy Iron Pestle; I observ'd that the broken Almonds, the finer they were pounded, grew more and more Oily, and stuck better together, till at last they became a clammy Substance between a Powder and a Paste.

The Almonds thus beaten, were put into a thick linen Bag, and placed between two meeting Parts of a strong wooden Press, which were forc'd hard together by the turning of an Iron Skrew; After some small Time the Oil began to drop pretty fast, and continu'd to do so, till the Apothecary had got the Quantity, proper for my Purpose; which having thus seen drawn, I took without any Difficulty, and it was perfectly successful.

I went a few Days after, with an *Italian* Fryar, to see the burning Mountain *Vesuvius*; The Cave, The Grotto, The Tomb of *Virgil*, and many other Rarities of that celebrated Neighbourhood, And happening one Day to take a By-Road for Expedition, we cross'd a very large Wood, which, as I afterwards observ'd, was almost all *Beech*; As we rode along, The Boughs, which were at that Time overloaded with full-ripe Mast, hung low and were exceeding Troublesome, so that I was often forc'd to bend forward upon my Horse, and to make Use of a strong Stick to guard off the Branches, as we rode close under them:

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The Boughs, as we pass'd on, being thus resisted by our Sticks, and the Husks of the Mast open, as they always are, when their Fruit is ripe, the Kernels, by the Motion of the Branches, fell down upon us as thick as Hail; and when I came out of the Wood, I found abundance of them, which had rested upon my Hat, and which out of a trifling Curiosity, to know what they had within them, or rather merely by Chance, I put carelessly into my Pocket.

But when I had opened and eat several, and found them so unexpectedly sweet and pleasant, I ask'd the Father what This Fruit was call'd, and was then first taught to know a Beech-Tree.

The Similitude in Taste between a new Almond, and the Beech-Mast, just fall'n from the Trees, immediately brought to my Remembrance the Oil, which had so lately cur'd my Cold, and the easy manner of making it; surely, thought I, as the Substance and Taste of these two Things are so near alike, their Effects can never be so different, but that the Beech must afford as good an Oil, as the Almond-Tree.

I resolv'd, however, to make an Experiment, and took Care in my Return, to get a Quart or two of Beech-Mast, and having hung it a whole Night in a linen Bag, near a small Fire, to dry away That watry Part, which you may observe predominant in Filberds, and Walnuts, till they have been a good while kept; I pounded them in a Mortar, and when they were reduc'd with Shell and all to a proper Substance, I got the Apothecary's Press, and went to work the same Way, I had before observ'd him take with the Almonds.

I was rather pleas'd than surpriz'd, to find my self so far from being mistaken, that the Oil was more in Quantity

tity than had been drawn from an equal Weight of Almonds, and the Apothecary not knowing, what it really was, after having several Times tasted it, declar'd that it was the finest Oil of Almonds that ever he saw drawn.

Thus far my natural Curiosity had led me; and here for want of Years, or Judgment, or an early Knowledge in the Principles of Trade, I had lost the Advantage of this fortunate and rich Discovery, had not Chance retriev'd it.

I left *Naples* soon after this, and carried the Oil along with me in a little Crystal Bottle, with Design to try, if it wou'd keep long in the warm Countries, I was going into; I preserv'd it above a Year, and all that Time it grew better and better, till at last by frequent changing Places, it was lost I know not how, and with it the very Remembrance of the Accident.

At last, in the Year 1712, some Affairs of no great Consequence calling me into the West of *England*, I return'd about the Beginning of *September* from *Devonshire*, and taking no direct Road, came along by *Henley* and the woodiest Part of *Maidenhead-Thicket*, where, for 12 or 14 Miles together, a Man can hardly see any other Wood but Beech.

It happen'd, that this very Year, the Beech-Mast grew in greater Plenty, than Ordinary, and as I rode among the Trees, I observ'd that they were almost bow'd to the Ground with their Burthens, and hung just as I had seen them twelve Years before in the Kingdom of *Naples*; The Similitude of the two Objects at once brought back to my Remembrance the Experiment, I had then made, and I was immediately mov'd with Curiosity to try, if the *English* Beech-Nut might not yield an Oil, as sweet as the *Neapolitan*.

At my Return to *London* I made the Experiment; I found it answer the utmost of my Expectations; and having by Enquiries of the Country People, before inform'd my self, that there was no Use for this Mast, but that all, which the Hogs left undevour'd, lay rotting on the Ground, and was look'd upon as not worth gathering; I made it my next Business to trace out the Uses of this new Oil.

I found it excellent in all Things, wherein it was try'd; The Perfumers valu'd it beyond the Oils they use, because they said it had a stronger Body; The Apothecaries, to a Man, were positive that it was Oil of Almonds, and as good as ever they had tasted; The Clothiers declar'd, that a Pint of This was worth a Quart of such Oil, as they generally make use of, but that so fine an Oil must needs, they said, be sold at too great a Price for their Business.

When I perceiv'd that the Oil was in it self thus excellent, I endeavour'd to find out what demand there might be for Oils in general, by applying my self to the several Dealers in That Commodity, and examining carefully the Bills of Entry at the Custom-House; But I was soon convinc'd that the Quantity of Oil consum'd in *England*, was so prodigious, that it was never likely to be glutted.

I had now but one doubt left to satisfy, and that was, whether there was a Quantity of *Mast* in *England* to make a Trade of Beech-Oil, and supply the Demand, which I found so general; I knew well enough by the Experiments, I had made, that whatever Quantities of this Oil cou'd be got, wou'd in a Manner cost nothing, but the Charge of procuring Mast, which I found by That, which I had got gather'd, cou'd never come to more in such a Year as That, than Three-pence or a Groat a Bushel; so that it only remain'd to discover,



whether Beech-Mast was as common, and as much neglected in other Counties of the Kingdom, as it was in those Parts, which I so lately pass'd through, of *Berkshire* and *Oxfordshire*.

To this End I made several Journies on purpose, till I had seen the largest Parts of two and twenty Counties, in the least of which I plainly found that there was Beech-Mast enough to supply Oil, not to *England* only, but all the three Kingdoms three Times over.

Here, I must confess, I began to be amaz'd! Is it possible, thought I, comparing all the foregoing Circumstances, that such a Discovery as This, is now to be made? I saw it a Reality, and yet cou'd scarce believe it other than a Dream; so vast and so infallible were the Profits of the Secret found; and so unlikely and improbable but a Month or two before, shou'd I have thought the Accident.

The only Difficulty now was, How to manage such an Undertaking; The Stock, I found by the most moderate Computation, wou'd amount to a greater Sum than I cou'd raise; And the Arts of Trade I had Reason to believe were best known to People, who had made Trade their Business.

I therefore propos'd the Affair to such Persons, as I thought most likely to listen to the Offer, and carry on the Business; I judg'd it prudent to conceal the Particulars, that is, I did not tell them, that I had found out that an Oil might be made of *Beech-Mast*, but I told them, that I cou'd make an Oil in great Quantity from a common Vegetable of *British* Growth, which wou'd be as good, or better for all Uses, than the *Seville*, or *Gallipoli* Oils, and yet not cost a fourth Part of the Rates, which those Oils went at; that I was ready to let them into a large Proportion of the Profits,



fits, if they wou'd raise a proper Stock, and that if they wou'd secure my Interest, by entering first into a conditional Covenant, I wou'd make them Masters of the Secret, and give them full Experience and Demonstration of the Fact, in whatever Manner, they shou'd think most satisfactory.

Till now I was a Stranger to the Tempers of Mankind, and expected to have heard Reason oppos'd against Reason, and that I shou'd have been undeceiv'd myself, or have convinc'd others, by a natural Consequence of Argument and Demonstration; But I was ignorant it seems, and did not know the World; Whim, Project, Impossibility, Diving, Linen-Manufacture, Salt-Petre, Mine-Adventure, were the only Arguments I met with, and in whatever Corner of the City I propos'd the Undertaking, instead of the Civility due to a Man, whose Business was to make their Fortunes, I cou'd scarce have met with colder Treatment, had I come to borrow Money of them.

By this Time I discover'd plainly, that I was going the wrong Way to work; That Peoples invincible Aversion to the word *Project*, wou'd never suffer them to believe me, till I cou'd speak what I had to say plainly, and it was dangerous to do That, till I had secur'd a Property in the Exercise of the Invention, by Vertue of a Patent from the Crown; which Kind of Patent, an Act of Parliament of the 21st of King James the First, has made valid, and lawful, against all Opposition for fourteen Years.

I then apply'd my self to her late Majesty of Blessed Memory, in Council, and on the 23d Day of October 1713, Her said Majesty was graciously pleas'd to grant me Her Royal Letters Patents in the following Manner.

' **A** N N E by the Grace of God, of *Great Britain,*  
 ' *France, and Ireland,* Queen, Defender of the  
 ' Faith, &c. To all, to whom these Presents shall  
 ' come Greeting. Whereas, Our Trusty, and well-be-  
 ' loved Subject, *Aaron Hill*, Esq; hath humbly repre-  
 ' sented unto us, That he has by much Study, and at  
 ' great Expence, found out and invented, how from the  
 ' Fruit, or Triangular Seed of the Beech-Tree, may be  
 ' express'd a sweet, pure, and wholesome Oil, That the  
 ' said Oil may not only be of great Use, in several of the  
 ' Manufactures of our said Kingdom, but also, in great  
 ' Measure supply the Demands of our Subjects, without  
 ' the Importation of Foreign Oils, humbly praying us to  
 ' grant him our Royal Letters Patents for the said Inven-  
 ' tion for the Space of fourteen Years. Know Ye, That  
 ' We, being willing to give Encouragement to all Arts  
 ' and Inventions, which may be of such publick Use  
 ' and Benefit, of our especial Grace, certain Knowledge,  
 ' and meer Motion, have given and granted, and by  
 ' these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, do  
 ' give and grant unto the said *Aaron Hill*, his Execu-  
 ' tors, Administrators, and Assigns, Especial Licence, Full  
 ' Power, Sole Privilege and Authority, that He the said  
 ' *Aaron Hill*, his Executors, Administrators and Assigns,  
 ' and every of them, by himself and themselves, or by  
 ' his, or their Deputy and Deputies, Servants or Agents,  
 ' or such others, as He the said *Aaron Hill* shall at any  
 ' Time agree with, and no others, from Time to Time,  
 ' and at all Times during the Term of Years herein ex-  
 ' press'd, shall and lawfully may exercise, work, use and  
 ' enjoy the said new Invention of making such Oil, as  
 ' is above describ'd. And that He the said *Aaron Hill*,  
 ' his Executors, Administrators, and Assigns, shall and  
 ' may have and enjoy the whole Profit, Benefit, Com-  
 ' modity and Advantage, from Time to Time coming,  
 ' growing, accruing, and arising, by Reason of the said  
 ' Invention: To have, hold, exercise, and enjoy the  
 ' said License, Powers, Privileges, and Advantages here-  
 ' in

' in before granted, or mention'd to be granted, unto  
 ' the said *Aaron Hill*, for and during and unto the  
 ' full End and Term of fourteen Years, from the Day of  
 ' the Date of these Presents next and immediately en-  
 ' suing, and fully to be compleat and ended, according  
 ' to the Statute in that Case made and provided. And  
 ' to the End that the said *Aaron Hill* and his Assigns,  
 ' and every of them, may have and enjoy the full Be-  
 ' nefit, and sole Use and Exercise of the said Invention,  
 ' according to our gracious Intention; We do by these  
 ' Presents, for Us, Our Heirs and Successors, require  
 ' and strictly command all and every Person and Persons,  
 ' Bodies Politick and Corporate, and all other our Sub-  
 ' jects whatsoever, of what Estate, Quality or Degree,  
 ' Name, or Condition soever they be, That neither  
 ' they, nor any of them, at any Time during the said  
 ' fourteen Years, either directly or indirectly, do make,  
 ' use, or put in Practice the said Invention, or any  
 ' Part of the same; nor shall in any wise counterfeit,  
 ' imitate, or resemble the same, nor shall make, or  
 ' cause to be made, any Addition thereto, or Substrac-  
 ' tion from the same, whereby to pretend himself, or  
 ' themselves the Inventor or Devisor thereof, without  
 ' the License, Consent or Agreement of the said *Aaron*  
 ' *Hill*, or his Assigns, in writing under his or their  
 ' Hands and Seals, first had and obtain'd, upon such  
 ' Pains and Penalties, as can and shall be justly inflicted  
 ' on such Offenders, for their Contempt of this our  
 ' Royal Command. And further, to be answerable to  
 ' the said *Aaron Hill* and his Assigns, according to Law  
 ' for all Damages thereby. And moreover We do by  
 ' these Presents, Will and Command all and singular our  
 ' Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Con-  
 ' stables, Headboroughs, and all other our Officers and  
 ' Ministers whatsoever, for the Time being, that they  
 ' or any of them do not, nor shall at any Time here-  
 ' after, during the said Term hereby granted, in any  
 ' wise molest, trouble, or hinder the said *Aaron Hill*,  
 ' or



or his Assigns, or any of them, or his or their Deputies, Servants or Agents, in or about the Exercise of the said Invention, or any Thing relating thereunto. And lastly, We do by these Presents, for Us, Our Heirs, and Successors, grant unto the said *Aaron Hill*, That These our Letters Patents, or the Inrolment thereof, shall be in and by all Things, good, firm, valid and effectual, in the Law, and shall be taken, construed and adjudg'd in the most favourable and most beneficial Sense, and for the best Advantage of the said *Aaron Hill*, as well in all Courts of Record, as elsewhere, and by all and singular the Officers and Ministers whatsoever of Us, our Heirs and Successors, and amongst all and every our Subjects whatsoever and wheresoever. In Witness whereof, we have caus'd these our Letters to be made Patents. Witness our self at *Westminster*, the 23<sup>d</sup> Day of *October*, in the Twelfth Year of our Reign.

When I had Possession of the Power, convey'd by the above recited Patent, I resolv'd no longer to apply my self to private Persons, who, unless they are wise and thinking Men, are generally prejudic'd by a Notion, that Designs are form'd against their Purposes; I therefore took an open Method of Discovering to the World the Benefits of the Design I went upon, and made publick the following Proposal, being very well assur'd, that many distinguishing Judgments wou'd readily perceive, and come in upon the Advantages there offer'd.

And whereas the said *Aaron Hill* and his Assigns according to Law for all Damages thereby. And moreover We do by these Presents Will and Command all and singular our Justices of the Peace, Mayors, Sheriffs, Bailiffs, Constables, Headboroughs, and all other our Officers and Ministers whatsoever, for the Time being, that they or any of them do not shall at any Time hereafter during the said Term hereby granted, in any while molest, trouble or hinder the said *Aaron Hill*.

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## *An Abstract of the First Proposals.*

**T**HAT Subscriptions should be taken for a Stock of Twenty thousand Pounds.

‘ That a Fourth should be paid down, and the rest at Michaelmas, 1714. under Forfeiture of the First Payment.

‘ That every Subscriber should receive by Two equal half-yearly Payments, at *Lady-day* and *Michaelmas*, an Annuity, to commence at *Lady-day*, 1715. amounting to 50 *l. per Cent.* upon whatever Sum they subscrib'd, and to continue during the whole Term of the Letters-Patents.

‘ That on every Midsummer-day there should be Nine Directors chosen by Majority of Voices, to assist the Patentee with their Advice upon Occasion, and receive Complaints, upon Default of Payment to any of the Subscribers: In which Case, if upon Notice given, the Patentee should fail to do the Justice required, the Nine Directors had Power to meet and chuse a Governor from among themselves, who should by Vertue of that Choice exclude the Patentee, and proceed, with Advice of the other Eight Directors, in the Exercise of all Power granted by the Patent, for the joint Advantage of the Subscribers in Proportion to their several Interests.

*An* This Offer met with the Success expected; People snatch'd the Opportunity, and the Twenty thousand Pounds were not only immediately subscrib'd, but above ten times the Money offer'd me in vain, after the Subscription was compleat, and it was too late to take it.

But

But being daily press'd to take in more Subscriptions, though upon a shorter and a smaller Interest, and finding by the growing Accounts of the great Demand for Oil, that I could very well employ a larger Stock, I resolv'd to accept of a Hundred thousand Pounds more, upon a different Bottom, and accordingly published the Proposals following.

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### *An Abstract of the Second Proposals.*

‘ **T**HAT a Subscription should be taken for One hundred thousand Pounds.

‘ That a tenth Part of every subscrib'd Sum should be paid down for the Use of the Patentee, and the other nine Parts be subject only to the Call and Disposal of Thirteen Directors of their own chusing.

‘ That the Patentee should provide Granaries, into which the Directors should put Store-keepers, &c. to receive and pay for whatever Beech-Mast the Patentee should send in, at any Price not exceeding one Shilling per Bushel, which Mast they were to re-deliver to the Order of the Patentee, upon Payment of a double Price per Bushel to what they paid for it; by which Means the Subscribers, who were bound to quarterly Dividends, would receive back in Parts their Principal and Interest together, and in Two Years Time make a Profit of *Cent. per Cent.* on their Subscriptions.

‘ That the Patentee might be obliged to take all the Mast off their Hands at such Rate, within the Two Years limited, Power was given to the Directors, upon Default, to enter on his Works, and without Rent, Reward or Consideration, occupy the same till they had made Oil of all the Beech-Mast in their Hands, and sold

‘ sold it for their own and the Subscribers Benefit, by  
 ‘ which Means their Profit had been many times over and  
 ‘ above what was proposed, and to entitle them to which,  
 ‘ they were only to pay to the old Annuity-Subscribers  
 ‘ such Parts of their Annuities as became due, while they  
 ‘ should carry on the Business.

The Books were open but a very few Days before this second Sum was also subscrib'd ; and now the Stock which I had to work with, amounted to a Hundred and twenty thousand Pounds, and the Persons concern'd in the Two Subscriptions, though they both depended on the same general Bottom, had each a several differing Security, and their Interests no way clash'd with one another.

My Business now was, how to set this great Machine a moving in the properest Manner ; and in pursuance of that Design, I thought it best to inform my self, whether I might be sure of Granaries and Ware-house-room enough in or about *London* for so large a Quantity of Mast as I might be obliged to lay up ; and after a very short Search and Enquiry, I became convinc'd, that upon a Day's Warning, I might have Store-room enough for as many Millions of Bushels as I could be furnished with.

I will instance only in one Proof, and demonstrate it by the following Estimate, which is an Account of one Place only.

*An*

*An Estimate of Granaries un-let, at the  
Red-house at Deptford, in July last,  
with their Length and Breadth.*

Granaries.	Foot long.	Foot broad.
N <sup>o</sup> 7	56	20
8	84	20
10	32	22
12	82	16
13	29	16
14	61	16
42	65	32
43	65	32
44	65	21
45	65	21
46	65	21
50	18	17
51	18	17
52	18	15
54	18	17
55	18	17
56	18	15
68	59	20
106	40	20
107	235	16
125	116	16
128	53	16
144	39	20
145	80	16





It was my next Care to provide a proper Work-House, for making so much of the Oil as wou'd supply the Demand of *London* and its Neighbourhood, which is so great, that the Soap-makers only within the Bills of Mortality, consume above seven thousand Tons of Oil in one Year; It was long before I cou'd find a Place compleatly fit for this Business; At last I succeeded, and took a Lease of the long Brick Building at *Vaux-Hall*, which is commonly call'd the *Gun-House*, and which is the most convenient Place in the World for such a Design, as it lies full upon the Water, that Barges from *Berkshire*, *Buckinghamshire*, and *Oxfordshire*, coming down the River, may lie close up to the Wall, and crane out the Mast into any Part of the Lofts, or the Work-House; And the Oil may by Means of such leathern Pipes, as the Brewers Men convey their Drink by into Ale-House-Cellars, be fill'd into Vessels, as they lie in the Barges, directly from the Cisterns, without the least Trouble of Landing and re-loading the Caskage:

Being thus secure of a Work-House, and store-Room enough, my next Care was, by what Method to proceed in making the Oil:

In order to inform my self in this particular, I visited the Rape-Mills, and all other Places, where Oils of any Sort are made by Expression, and dislik'd them all; The Way of Grinding down the Seed in the Mills, is by the circular Motion of a turning Grindstone, set Edgeways upon another, which lies flat, which Grindstone, by passing so often and so swiftly over the Seed, I found to heat it so much in the Crushing, that it occasion'd an extraordinary Rankness in the Oil; And That Rankness is encreas'd by another Method they have of heating the broken Seed in an Iron Pan, before they press it.

The Oil is then press'd out by the Force of great wooden Beams, which being hung perpendicular, and lifted

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lifted up to certain Heights by the Motion of a Water-wheel, fall down with a smart Stroke, and squeeze out the Oil from a Bag, which is plac'd between two Wedges in a close Press, from whence the Oil drops down into a Copper Receiver.

'Tis worth your while, if you have never seen a Rape-Mill, to be curious enough to do it; You will then be presently convinc'd, by observing how much Oil the Rape-Seed yields, that 'tis no wonder there shou'd be as much in the Beech-Mast; which, upon the Comparifon, Every Body will presently perceive to be the Heaviest, and most Oily of the two Seeds, and in Proportion not near so husky. There are many Rape-Mills about *London*; Particularly one at *Wandsworth*, another at *Rotherhith*, and a Third upon the Bank between *West-Ham* and *Bromley*.

To remedy the Defects, I observ'd in these Mills, and avoid their Inconveniencies of frequent Repair, and often standing still by too much Water, or too little, I resolv'd upon a new Engine, capable of doing infinitely more work than the Mills, at a Quarter of their Expence both in Time and Money.

I caus'd one of These to be set up at *Vaux-Hall*, where it now stands, which is easily manag'd by one Man's Labour, and will at least make more Oil, than the best Mill in *England* can pretend to, with the Charge of great Rents, Repairs, and 3 or 4 Men to manage it.

I had gone on to have improv'd this Engine, and enlarg'd it, as also to erect a great many more in the same Place, make Cisterns, and finish all Things necessary, which is not the Work of above six Weeks at longest, but I found it needless, for the Reasons, I shall by and by acquaint you with.

I tire you perhaps with this tedious Account of Particulars, but I entreat you to have Patience; It will lead you gradually from one Proof to another, till you find your self fully convinc'd of the Greatness of this Discovery, and inspir'd with a just and generous Indignation against the Malice and Folly of such unthinking Men; who have endeavour'd to oppress it.

Having now prepar'd, and made sure, whatever was fit to be first done; I made it my next Care to become a perfect Master of all Things necessary to be known, both at Home and Abroad, in order to the proper Management of the Affair in General.

I chose with the best Discretion I was Master of, and dispatch'd Agents on Purpose into most Parts of *Europe*, procur'd Recommendatory Letters, and held as extended a Correspondence as possible, for Information concerning the Quantities and Rates of Beech-Mast from beyond Sea; The Effect of These Endeavours you shall presently see, in as full a Manner as possible.

I consider'd that the Counties, wherein the Woollen Manufactures are establish'd, wou'd consume the greatest Quantities of Beech-Oil; and that therefore it wou'd be very useful to send into those Counties, and procure a certain Information from the Dealers themselves, what Quantities of Oil I might expect to sell, and prepare to make it in Proportion to the Demand; For by the Contradictory Accounts, I receiv'd from Merchants, and Tradesmen, of whom no Two were ever in one Story, I perceiv'd there cou'd be no Dependance on their Reports of Oil imported: And the Bills of Entry cou'd only inform me, How much Oil was brought to *London*, which is nothing to the whole Kingdom's Consumption, because the woollen Manufacture, which consumes most Oil, is least establish'd in the Neighbourhood of that City.



Again, I thought it necessary to send Samples of this Beech-Oil among the Dealers, that by making Trials in their several Ways, they might all experimentally become acquainted with its Virtues.

In Pursuance of This Resolution I sent down able Agents, Men vers'd in the Nature, and the Forms of Business, into all such Parts of *England*, as I judg'd most worth my while to correspond with; Every Man had his particular Road appointed him, and was to act and govern himself by stated Rules; An Example of which I here give you in the Copy of one of their Instructions.

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*Instructions for Mr. Jacob Westley, in order to obtain proper Information, for establishing a Staple of Beech-Oil, for the Supply of the Clothing Trade in the County of Worcester.*

I. **Y**OU must consider what Road it will be best to take for compleating your Tour, so as not to miss either Town, Village, or Parish, which is in any Degree considerable for the Clothing Trade.

II. As you come to any of these Places, you may proceed by what Means you think best, to discourse with the Combers, or other Consumers of Oil; which may be done by sending for, or going to them, singly; Or by giving publick Notice, and appointing a Time for Them all to meet you at your Inn.

III. The



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‘ III. The first Thing you are to do, is to convince them by what Authority you Act, and that you are the only Person lawfully qualify’d to treat with them upon this Subject.

‘ IV. You must fully represent the prodigious Advantage, which will arise to the Clothing Trade in General, and to their Town in particular by This new Discovery. That they will from this Time forward, be supply’d with much better Oil, than ever they had before: Then shew them Samples of the Beech-Oil, which you are to take with you, and supply your self afresh by Quantities sent before, and lodg’d at proper Distances against your Coming: Let them make Experience of this Oil, and try it with their Wool, or what other Way they please; and inform them, That in the gathering of Malt, and making of this Oil, many thousands of poor People will be employ’d: That, in Order to make it as great a Benefit as possible to the woollen Manufacture, The Patentee will always sell them Beech-Oil much cheaper, than the Price they now give for Seville, or Gallipoli Oils, which are far worse, as they will find by their Trials; Then tell them, where the general Staple for the County will be fix’d, and take down their Names, and Places of Abode, as also the Quantity of Oil, which each Man commonly uses, one Year with another, and the exact Price, they now pay for Oil, as also what they have paid, when at the highest, and the lowest Rates.

‘ V. As you pass from Place to Place, inform yourself what other Uses there are for Oil, and find out the Men and talk with them severally, and take an Account of their Names, Place of Abode, Quantity and Price of the Oil they consume.

‘ VI. All these Accounts you must exactly enter in a Book for that Purpose, and send them me up Weekly

‘ in a Post-Letter, as also whatever other Informations  
‘ you meet with for the Advantage of the Undertaking.

The Care and Diligence of these Agents succeeded so well, that I had long ago a List of Dealers in Oil, and their Orders to send down above two and twenty thousand Tons of Beech-Oil, to ready-Money Customers, at 40 *l* a Ton, which amounts to almost a Million of Money Sterling in one Years Time, by Means of a Discovery, which People are all the while making merry with, and looking upon, as a Project, and an empty Notion.

This will I know be strange News to many honest Gentlemen, who judge of publick Consumption by their own private Dealings; But I am not here affirming Things upon Imagination, but Experience, and undeniable Demonstration; I have the Names, Places of Abode, and Quantity consum'd yearly, of almost every noted Dealer in Oil in the whole Kingdom.

I desire you to believe nothing but what you see prov'd; 'Twould require a Volume to insert here the whole Account; I will therefore only make Use of the Northern Consumption, because in That Part of the Kingdom every Body knows, that the Demand for Oil bears no Proportion to That of other Places.

The following Letters from my Northern Agent, as he made his Journey, will shew you a Consumption of above Two Thousand Tons a Year, in a Corner of the Land, where very few Merchants think there is any Oil us'd at all; and which I therefore chuse to give you as an Example.

S I R,

S I R,

*Wakefield, June the 30th, 1714.*

IT is now high Time to give you an Account of my Travels to This Place; where the Concern I was under, when I left the good Family I was before engaged in, was alleviated by the kind Reception of your new Agent and Undertaking. All the eminent Merchants both at *York* and *Leeds*, have an entire good Opinion of its Success, and have promis'd to promote it; tho' I think it will not need their Assistance; Your Letter to Mr. Mayor of *Leeds* was very kindly receiv'd; He promis'd he wou'd write to you; and has already given me just Proofs of his good Intentions, by acquainting, and explaining to the Aldermen, Merchants, Clothiers, &c. the Profit and Usefulness of the Invention; At the Market, which is every Tuesday and Saturday, Mr. Mayor in Person recommended your Oil to the Dealers in that Commodity. You are much oblig'd to Him, Alderman *Ascough*, and indeed the whole Town, for their Extraordinary Civility; All the Oil-Men will take Quantities, and pay ready Money: The Consumption of Oil in the two Towns of *York* and *Leeds* only, amounts to upwards of a thousand Ton a Year; But if you can send them four or five hundred Tons, it may stop their Mouths for a while; Rape-seed Oil is now at two Shillings and Eight-pence a Gallon, and has been at three Shillings and Ten-pence; *Seville* Oil, which has been at six Shillings, is now at four Shillings and Four-pence; I am sure, when yours comes, They will use none else; The Growers of Rape look amaz'd; And the Drawers of Oil, will shortly put their Mill-Sails into deep Mourning.

' Please to replenish my Stock of Beech-Oil; I shou'd I think have had a Hogthead set in the Middle of the Market, with two or three hundred Spoons for the Country Clothiers to taste with; They have try'd and



' lick'd away my little Cargo; But I may say This to  
' my Comfort, that I have never yet met one Man  
' who pretended to dislike it; I conclude,

Your, &c.

Robt. Ibbotson.

S I R, *Liverpoole, July the 6th, 1714*

' Since mine from *Wakefield*, I have sent you an Ac-  
' count of my Progress to this Place. They are the  
' most substantial Dealers, and will always pay you  
' ready Money; The Quantities computed are rather un-  
' der than over; so please to take Care of a Supply ac-  
' cordingly.

*Here follows an Account from York to Liverpoole.*

At York, ———	Messieurs Scourfield and	} 5 Tuns.
	Bell consume ———	
	Mr. Richard Baynes	12 Tuns.
	Mr. Samuel Smith	18 Tuns.
	Mr. William Pemberton	10 Tuns.
	Mr. Edward Jefferson	5 Tuns.
	Mr. Campleston ———	1 Tun.
	Mr. Coulton ———	4 Tuns.
	Mrs. Thorp ———	2 Hogsheads.

At Leeds, ———	A. Tenson ———	50 Tuns.
	Jos. Oats ———	44 Tuns.
	John Brooke ———	66 Tuns.
	Thomas Tenton ———	50 Tuns.
	Mr Dunwell ———	15 Tuns.
	John Smithson ———	20 Tuns.



	<i>Samuel Iles</i> ————	7 Tuns.
	<i>Thomas Bridges</i> ————	10 Tuns.
At <i>Gulderfon,</i>	<i>Mr. Dickinson</i> ————	100 Tuns.
At <i>Pudsworth,</i>	<i>Mr. Hay</i> ————	60 Tuns.
At <i>Sherburn,</i>	<i>A. Wardropper</i> ————	1 Hoghead.
At <i>Kippax,</i>	<i>J. Wardropper</i> ————	1 Barrel.
	<i>George Greenlads</i> ————	3 Tuns.
	<i>Mr. Ledger</i> ————	14 Tuns.
At <i>Bradford,</i>	<i>John Bower</i> ————	40 Tuns.
	<i>Samuel Stanfeild</i> ————	24 Tuns.
At <i>Honley,</i>	<i>David Dickinson</i> ————	21 Tuns.
At <i>Dudmanston,</i>	<i>Mr. Wilfon</i> ————	16 Tuns.
At <i>Ottley,</i>	<i>Daniel Neal</i> ————	10 Tuns.
At <i>Keighley,</i>	<i>Luke Lund</i> ————	1 Hoghead.
At <i>Wakefield,</i>	<i>Mr. Beavers</i> ————	400 Tuns.
	<i>Robert Wilfon</i> ————	1 Hoghead.
	<i>Mr. Grise</i> ————	1 Hoghead.
	<i>Mr. Armitage</i> ————	1 Barrel.
	<i>Mr. Barugh</i> ————	1 Hoghead.
	<i>Mr. Tilfon, &amp;c.</i> ————	12 Tuns.
	<i>Mr. Waddington</i> ————	1 Hoghead.
	<i>Mr. Cowper</i> ————	1 Hoghead.
	<i>Mr. Liversedge</i> ————	1 Hoghead.
	<i>Mr. A. Bland</i> ————	1 Hoghead.
	<i>Mr. Pighles</i> ————	1 Hoghead.
At <i>Horbury,</i>	<i>Richard Wormal</i> ————	1 Hoghead.
At <i>Huthersford,</i>	<i>Mr. Bradley</i> ————	20 Tuns.

At Huthersford, Mr. Walker ——— 30 Tuns.

At Ealand, — Thomas Batt ——— 20 Tuns.

Abraham Slater ——— 10 Tuns.

At Almondbury, Mr. Gradwell ——— 10 Tuns.

At Henton, — John Key ——— 15 Tuns.

Jonathan Firth ——— 20 Tuns.

At Lingarts, — Richard Shaw ——— 30 Tuns.

At Holmforth, Samuel Dixon ——— 24 Tuns.

At Halifax, — Tim. Viccars ——— 10 Tuns.

Sam. Nicholls ——— 12 Tuns.

William Chamberlain ——— 30 Tuns.

Sam. Steade ——— 20 Tuns.

John Batley ——— 20 Tuns.

Richard Durdon ——— 5 Tuns.

Nicholas Barflow ——— 5 Tuns.

Mary Drake ——— 2 Tuns.

At Harlinden, George Hargrave ——— 1 Hoghead.

At Totmorden, William Shires ——— 10 Tuns.

At Ratobdale, Mr. John Redferne ——— 4 Tuns.

Thomas Laycock ——— 6 Tuns.

Thomas Hill ——— 2 Tuns.

Thomas Taylor ——— 5 Tuns.

John Dixon ——— 8 Tuns.

Richard Holt ——— 6 Tuns.

At Bolton, — John Hewit ——— 1 Tun.

At Stayley-Bridge, Mr. Tailer ——— 15 Tuns.

At Leigh, — Mrs. Blackburn ——— 1 Tun.

At Ashton, — Mr. Gibbon — 1 Hoghead.  
James Brown — 5 Tuns.

At Walworth, Thomas Shore — 6 Tuns.

At Stockport, — R. Clough — 2 Tuns.  
E. Ardern — 1 Tun.

At Manchester, James Garrside — 20 Tuns.  
William Holmes — 12 Tuns.  
John Cheshire — 10 Tuns.  
Nathaniel Eaton — 10 Tuns.  
Jos. Storrs — 5 Tuns.  
Ro. Chorley — 1 Tun.  
John Hopwood — 1 Tun.  
Rob. Wilson — 1 Tun.  
Mr. Holden — 1 Tun.  
Mr. Corlis — 10 Tuns.

At Maxfield, — Mr. Thornley — 1 Tun.

At Warrington, Giles Paystow — 1 Hoghead.  
John Kensal — 1 Tun.  
Peter Allen — 1 Barrel.  
Mr. Wright — 1 Barrel.  
Mr. Anderton — 1 Barrel.  
George Patten — 1 Tun.  
Mr. Tittley — 1 Barrel.  
Thomas Merrit — 1 Barrel.  
Mrs. Percival — 1 Tun.  
Daniel Dondavond — 1 Barrel.  
Thomas Patten — 1 Tun.  
Mr. Heskitt — 1 Tun.

At Chester, — Mr. Elmes — 5 Tuns.  
Mr. Pankett — 5 Tuns.

At Liverpool, Mr. Swarbrick — 60 Tuns.  
Mr. Lathom — 40 Tuns.

Over

‘ Over and above which, the Merchants sell about  
 ‘ a Hundred Tons. I hope the Consumption I meet  
 ‘ with as I go, will give Content ; and am,

S I R,

Your, &c.

Robt. Ibbotson.



S I R,

Carlisle, July 11. 1714

‘ **H**AVING cross’d the *Appennine* Mountains, I am safe  
 ‘ at this Place, and observe, as I go on, that the  
 ‘ Drawers of Rape-Oil are the only Enemies to your  
 ‘ Invention, especially one *Beaver* of *Wakefield*, who  
 ‘ keeps 8 or 10 Mills at work the Year round. Their  
 ‘ Oil, upon my coming, is fallen to two Shillings and four  
 ‘ Pence, and *Seville* Oil to four Shillings per Gallon. The  
 ‘ Soap-makers in my Travels wanting Oil, make a sort of  
 ‘ hard Soap of Tallow. The Leather-dressers are few,  
 ‘ and use Fish-Oil only.

‘ I have sent you what has further occur’d.

At *Boulton*, — *Richard Dixon* — 1 Hogshead.

At *Kirkham*, — *Cornelius Langton* — 1 Hogshead.

At *Preston*, — *Mr. Gradwell* — 10 Tuns.

*Mr. Drinkwater* — 5 Tuns.

*Tho. Whalley* — 6 Tuns.

*Mr. Revelds* — 2 Tuns.

*Mr. Southward* — 1 Tun.

*Gant and Harrison* — 1 Tun.

At



At Omskirk, — James Worthington — 1 Tun.

At Garstang, — Richard Leckonby — 1 Tun.

At Lancaster, — William Stout — 5 Tuns.

Elijah Salthouse — 4 Tuns.

Sam. Satterthwaite — 1 Tun.

John Hull — 1 Tun.

At Kendall, — John Adwin — 2 Tuns.

Tho Moore — 2 Tuns.

Mr. Bowes — 3 Tuns.

Mr. Whitehead — 2 Tuns.

Mr. Herbert — 1 Tun.

Mr. Banks — 1 Tun.

Mr. Dodson — 1 Tun.

Mr. Strickland — 1 Tun.

At Cockermouth, Mr. Langton — 1 Tun.

Mr. Tubman — 2 Tuns.

Mr. Tiffin — 2 Tuns.

‘ I have nothing to add to the foregoing, but that  
‘ I am,

S I R,

Your, &c.

Robt. Ibbotson.

S I R,

S I R,

York, July 29. 1714.

YOU have here continued an Account from Carlisle to York; which is at present the whole needful from

Tour, &amp;c.

Robt. Ibbotson.

At Carlisle, — Alderman Railton — 1 Tun.  
 Jacob Hodson — 1 Hogshead.  
 John James — 1 Hogshead.

At Newcastle, — Alderman Ray — 100 Tuns.  
 James Moncaster — 2 Hogsheads.  
 Mr. Ridley — 10 Tuns.  
 Mr. Salkold — 1 Tun.  
 Mr. Vazy — 1 Tun.  
 Mr. Warwick — 1 Tun.  
 Mr. Scomburn — 2 Tuns.  
 Mr. Dalsen — 1 Tun.  
 Mr. Stephenson — 1 Tun.  
 Alderman Gill — 5 Tuns.

At Durham, — Mr. Cornforth — 1 Tun.  
 Alderman Smith — 1 Hogshead.  
 George Paxton — 1 Hogshead.  
 Ra. Nellson — 1 Hogshead.  
 Widow Dodson — 1 Hogshead.  
 Henry Foster — 1 Hogshead.  
 John Greenwell — 1 Hogshead.  
 Giles Rayne — 1 Tun.  
 Alderman Bambrig — 1 Hogshead.

At

At Stockton	Mr. Sam. Hall	1 Hogthead.
	Mr. Tho. Watfon	1 Hogthead.
At Gysbrough	William Proddy	1 Barrel.
	William Spencer	1 Barrel.
At Stoxley	Mr. Edw. Raper	1 Hogthead.
	Mr. Tho. Bennet	1 Hogthead.
At Tarum,	Mr. Gabriel Bell	1 Tun.
	Mr. Greensides	1 Hogthead.
	Mr. Harrison	1 Hogthead.
	Mr. Jos. Hughes	1 Hogthead.
At Darlington	Mr. Holmes	10 Tuns
	Mr. Wm. Pemberton	10 Tuns.
At Bernard-Castle,	Mr. Wm. Perkins	1 Hogthead.
	Mr. Tho. Heslop	1 Hogthead.
At Richmond,	Nine Grocers	1 Tun & a qr.
At Featam,	John Reynoldson	1 Hogthead.
At Leyburne,	John Reynoldson Sen.	1 Hhd & half.
At Middleham,	Mr. Rich. Smithson	1 Hogthead.
	Mr. Stephen Carr	1 Hogthead.
	Mr. Wm. Dixon	1 Tun.
At Masbam,	Mr. Wm. Beckwith	1 Hogthead.
	Mr. Wm. Cleaton	2 Tuns.
	John Bings	1 Hogthead.
	Mr. Wreathay	1 Hogthead.
	Wm. Johnson	1 Hogthead.

At **Bedal**, — **Mr. Whitton** — 20 Tuns.  
 — **Mr. Plummer** — 5 Tuns.  
 — **Mr. Sam. Pulleyn** — 1 Hoghead.  
 — **Mr. Carter** — 1 Hoghead.  
 At **Northallerton**, **Mr. Whitton** — 1 Barrel.  
 — **George Dunn** — 1 Barrel.  
 — **Robt. Thompson** — 1 Hoghead.  
 — **James Coates** — 1 Hoghead.  
 At **Rippon**, — **Alderman Ripley and** } 1 Hoghead.  
 — **Burton** — }  
 — **Mrs. Brathwait** — 1 Hoghead.  
 — **Mrs. Craven** — 1 Hoghead.  
 — **John Horner** — 1 Barrel.  
 — **Mr. Booth** — 1 Barrel.  
 — **Mr. Wayn** — 1 Barrel.  
 — **Mr. Newell** — 2 Hogheads.  
 At **Knaresborough**, **Wm. Cundill** — 2 Hhds & half.  
 — **Mr. Airton** — 1 Tun.  
 At **Boroughbridge**, **Cha. Cotton** — 1 Hoghead.  
 — **Richard Newsom** — 1 Hoghead.  
 At **Malton**, — **Mr. Dickinson** — 1 Hoghead.

S I R,

Gainsborough, Aug. 7. 1714.

I Staid a whole Week in York, and found it the properest  
 Time in the World to propagate your Affair. I had  
 every Day Occasion to expole your Oil to the best  
 Judges in the North. Mr. Bell, the Chymist, has by a  
 full Experiment found yours to excel any Oil, that can  
 be used for the Woollen Manufacture. It continues to  
 please every Dealer; insomuch that no Body will lay



up Quantities for longer than the Time, when they expect yours to be ready.

Consumption of Oil to this Place amounts to Eighteen hundred and eighty seven Tons and two Hogheads, in the Hands of substantial and ready-money Customers, who will pay upon Delivery. I hope to finish my Journey in a few Weeks more; and am,

S I R,

Your, &c.

Robt. Ibbotson.

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I take up too much Room, and am forced to break off without inserting the remaining Accounts, which make the total Amount of even this Northern Circuit above two Thousand Tons of Oil *per Annum*.

I add here a few Letters from *Cornwall* and *Devonshire*, which shall end this Part of the Proof, being far more than is necessary to the Point in Question.

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S I R,

*Probus in Cornwall, Apr. 24. 1714.*

I Have since my last had Opportunity of meeting at one Time a whole knot of Woolcombers, and I find they are all overjoy'd at so good an Oil; the Want of sweet Oil having always been a great Damage to their Business.

They are all of one Mind; and all, who try your Beech-Oil, as most of them do before they speak their Mind, assure me, that they never saw so good, and so fat an Oil, as this is.

( 4 )  
‘ I am sure, that if I had a Thousand Tons, I could sell  
‘ it all just now here in *Cornwall*.

‘ I send you the Particulars hitherto, and shall continue  
‘ to do so as I go on. But I find that in general every  
‘ Workman, who combs Wool for Serge, uses one with  
‘ another a Hoghead in a Year.

‘ I have already, as you will see, taken an Account of  
‘ more than Four thousand such Workmen in this Part of  
‘ the County; so that That amounts to a Thousand Tons  
‘ of Oil a Year; which, if you remember, was more than  
‘ you thought us’d in *Cornwall* and *Devonshire*.

‘ The Price now given is four Shillings and ten Pence  
‘ the Gallon. It has been bought for three Shillings  
‘ twenty Years ago. I shall next Week, &c. I am,

S I R,

Your, &c.

Thomas Smyth.

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S I R,

Plymouth, June 5. 1714.

‘ MY last from *Exeter* carried you a particular Ac-  
‘ count to that Place. You shall have a compleat  
‘ List of the *Devonshire* Consumption on this Side in a  
‘ Post or Two.

‘ The exactest general Information I can now send you  
‘ is, that I have an Account of Forty Thousand Wool-  
‘ workers, who, allowing them but to use a Barrel a-piece,  
‘ which is far short, as you have seen by the Particulars,  
‘ of what they really do consume, require a Supply of  
‘ five

• five Thousand Tons of Oil a Year for *Cornwall*, and  
• about two Thirds of *Devonshire*, which I have already  
• travers'd according to Instructions.

• As Oils now go in these Parts, Beech-Oil may pick  
• and chuse Custom at Five and forty Pound a Ton; and  
• as Five thousand Tons at that Price amount to Two  
• hundred and twenty five thousand Pounds, be pleased  
• to let me know, if you still hold it necessary that I  
• should, after finishing this County, go on to *Somersetshire*.  
• I am,

S I R,

Your, &c.

Tho. Smyth.



S I R,

*Probm; August 12. 1714.*

• I AM at last got home; and with the more Satisfac-  
• tion to my self, because you seem pleased with my  
• Endeavours for your Service.

• I enclose the compleat Account; and have nothing to  
• add, but that the Clothiers every where complain, that  
• the Merchants, of late Years, have not been able to sup-  
• ply them with Oil sufficient for their Occasions; and  
• that their Goods have not been so well wrought, as they  
• had been, had they had Plenty of good Oil to work  
• their Wooll with; so that they will use even more than  
• the Account mentions, when they find they can have it  
• so easily.

• I will observe your Orders as to the Beech-Mast: But  
• the Blite has made it so much more troublesom to get it  
• good, than it is in other Years, that I much fear I shall

E

• nos

not be able to bargain for any considerable Quantity  
cheaper than Twelve Pence per Bushel.

*Will. Barnes* and the rest expect Earnest, which pray  
send me word if I shall give at that Rate. I am,

S I R,

Your, &c.

Tho. Smyth.

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By this Time you are, I hope, convinc'd, that the  
Beech-Oil can never want a Market; and it only remains  
to demonstrate, that it is as much impossible for the Mar-  
ket to want Beech-Oil.

But now to return to the Thread of my Design, when  
I perceiv'd by the Accounts my Agents sent me from eve-  
ry Part of the Kingdom, what prodigious Quantities of  
Oil might be dispos'd of; how much the Dealers prefer'd  
Beech-Oil to any other; and that the Commodity would  
at all Times command ready Money, and might pick and  
chuse its Customers, I thought it high Time to take care  
of the Beech-Mast.

I was willing to obtain as particular Accounts, as to a  
Supply of Mast, as I had received of the Demand for  
Oil; and therefore, being resolv'd to spare no Cost or  
Labour, I dispatch'd at one time new Agents into Six  
and thirty Counties, out of the Two and fifty, besides  
those sent into foreign Parts before.

Their Business you will best comprehend by the follow-  
ing Instructions.

*Instructions*



*Instructions for Mr. William Crofs, in a  
Journey for Procuration of Beech-Maft,  
through the Counties of Dorset, Somerfet,  
and Wilts.*

‘ **Y**OU begin your Journey from *London* to *Cran-*  
*burn.*

‘ At *Cranburn* begin your Enquiries, not only from  
‘ Gentlemen with whom you are acquainted, or to whom  
‘ you can procure recommendatory Letters, but also from  
‘ all Inn-keepers, Travellers, Country-men, or others, in-  
‘ to whose Company you shall accidentally fall.

‘ Whatever Answers you receive to any Questions, or  
‘ whatever Bargains you make, or Informations you get,  
‘ in relation to the Affair you go about, you must enter  
‘ as particularly as possible in a Paper-Book, by way of  
‘ Journal, with an Account of the Place where, the  
‘ Time when, the Persons who, and all other Circum-  
‘ stances daily occurring.

‘ The Questions to be ask’d are such as these : What  
‘ Quantity of Beech grows thereabouts ? To whom it  
‘ belongs ? And whether they know of any People who  
‘ have ever gather’d Beech-Maft ? How much clear from  
‘ the Husk they have been able to gather from one Tree ?  
‘ How many Bushels one Person’s Labour could procure  
‘ in one Day ? What Wages they expect *per Day* in those  
‘ Parts ? And what Method in gathering the Maft they  
‘ generally make use of ?

' When you have ask'd all these Questions, and re-  
 ' ceived and set down their several Answers, you must  
 ' deliver to the Person or Persons, three, six, or more, as  
 ' they think fit, of the Printed Bills, and desire that if they  
 ' should accidentally meet with any Gentlemen who own  
 ' Mast, or Farmers, or poor People who would gather it,  
 ' and have heard nothing of these Bills, that they would  
 ' tell them all the Particulars, and give them Directions  
 ' where to send Notice of any Quantity of Mast they shall  
 ' get, and encourage them as much as they can, to gather  
 ' all they are able to find, and to use the Method of ga-  
 ' thering which is set down in the printed Bills.

' If you meet with any Gentlemen who have Parks or  
 ' Woods of their own, full of Mast, but do not care for  
 ' the Trouble of gathering it at their own Charge, you  
 ' may let them know, that if they will suffer poor People  
 ' to gather their Mast without Interruption, and order a  
 ' Servant to take Account of what Quantity is gather'd,  
 ' and in whose Hands it lies, you will call at their House  
 ' some Time in *October*, and pay them down two Pence a  
 ' Bushel for all the Mast which has been gather'd from their  
 ' Trees, and which their above-named Servant shall go  
 ' with you, and help you to, from the Country-People  
 ' who gather'd it.

' But endeavour, if possible, to perswade the Country-  
 ' Gentlemen themselves to employ the poor People, and  
 ' gather their own Mast: And in order thereto, make them  
 ' sensible how great a Benefit they will do in their Neigh-  
 ' bourhood; and that if they take the Method of gather-  
 ' ing described in the Bills; by spreading Things under the  
 ' Boughs, and shaking the Branches with a Hook upon  
 ' the Pole, they cannot fail at the Price proposed, to get at  
 ' least half clear Profit. To this End, perswade them on-  
 ' ly to try one Day, when their Mast is full ripe, and by  
 ' comparing the Quantity which shall be gather'd that Day,  
 ' with the Wages which they pay to the Gatherers, they  
 ' will

will presently be at a Certainty for a trifling Charge, and may go on, or not, as they find it will answer.

‘ Wherever you see any straggling Beech-Trees full of  
‘ Mast, on or near the High-way, or elsewhere, though  
‘ never so few, you may call at the next Cottage, or poor  
‘ Man’s House you come to, and engage him to gather it  
‘ when it is ripe, as the Bills will instruct him, and to keep  
‘ it where it may lie dry ; and let him know that you will  
‘ be with him some Time in *October*, to see what Quantity  
‘ he has got, and pay him the propos’d Price for every  
‘ Bushel, that is clean and free from Leaves, Husks, Sticks,  
‘ or other Foulness : And Before you leave him, set down  
‘ his Name, and Place of Abode, that you may not for-  
‘ get how to find him, and leave with him some Bills to  
‘ disperse among such of his Acquaintance who know of  
‘ any Mast, and shall be willing to gather it upon the  
‘ same Terms ; desiring him, if he finds any such, to tell  
‘ you when you come next, who they are, and where  
‘ they live, that you may call and pay them for the Mast  
‘ they shall have gather’d.

‘ In this Manner you must go on from *Cranburn* to *Cran-*  
‘ *burn-Chase*, *Holt-Forest*, and so if you hear of more Mast  
‘ towards the Sea to the Left ; Then up to the Right again  
‘ to *Gillingham-Forest* by *Shaftsbury*, thence to *Blandford*,  
‘ *Middleton*, *Cerne-Abby*, and farther Westward, as far  
‘ in *Dorsetshire*, as you can hear of Beech-Woods, or  
‘ Parks, that have much Beech in them ; Then turn up  
‘ into *Somersetshire*, and Edge along upon the Border,  
‘ going no further into the County, than you can be in-  
‘ form’d of any Store of Beeches, and so come into *Wilt-*  
‘ *shire* by the Way of *Bath* ; From the *Bath* to *Blackmore-*  
‘ *Forest*, *Crookwood*, *Pewsham-Forest*, so up to *Bradon-*  
‘ *Forest* ; from thence to *Auborne-Chace*, *Savernake-Fo-*  
‘ *rest*, and so away to *Chute-Forest*, where your Business  
‘ will End, and from thence you must make the best of  
‘ your Way to *London*, without farther Enquiries ; Besides  
‘ the particular Places here mention’d, you must endea-

( 70 )  
‘ your within the said Counties to get what Information  
‘ you can of all Parks, Woods, or other Forests, where any  
‘ Quantity of Beech-Trees grow, still crossing as you pass  
‘ from Right and Left, as your Intelligence directs you,  
‘ constantly setting down in your Journal, what Places and  
‘ Persons you go to, what you hear, and what you meet  
‘ with.

‘ For the more commodious Distribution of your  
‘ Printed Bills, it will be proper to send by the Carriers  
‘ before you leave *London*, little Parcels of a Thousand a  
‘ Piece, directed for your self to be left at the Ware-houses,  
‘ till call'd for, at these following Places, *Blandford*, the  
‘ *Bath* and the *Devises*.

‘ By this Means you may call for your Bills, as you want  
‘ them, and never trouble your self at once with too great  
‘ a Quantity.

‘ Endeavour, where-ever you come, to make the Inn-  
‘ keepers sensible, how great an Advantage it wou'd be,  
‘ if they hir'd poor People, at so much a Day, and laid  
‘ up all the Mast in their upper Rooms, till *October*,  
‘ when you will come back again to take it from them.

‘ When all this is done, which must be perform'd with  
‘ as little Delay as possible, you must return to *London*,  
‘ and receive Bills to go the same Course over again, to  
‘ pay for all the Mast, which shall be gather'd, and dis-  
‘ pose of it according to such further Instructions, as will  
‘ then be ready for you.

What the Consequence of these Gentlemens Journeys  
was, you shall see by one of their Journals, and a few of  
their Letters, which are all I can allow Room for.

An



*An Account of a Journey for Procuration of  
Beech-Mast, through the Counties of Kent,  
Suffex, Surrey, and Hampshire ; per-  
form'd by me, John Brown.*

I Left *London* on the 31<sup>st</sup> Day of *August* 1714, and  
stopp'd first at *Sevenoke*, where *Mr. Richard Adams*  
of the Crown went with me to view the Park, belong-  
ing to the Earl of *Dorset*.

We saw a great Number of fine Beech-Trees, but not  
one in a Hundred bore Mast this Year, and even upon  
those Trees, which did bear, the Mast was light and full  
of Worm-Holes.

*Mr. Adams* inform'd me, that generally there is a vast  
Quantity of Beech-Mast in this Park, and that the Peo-  
ple thereabouts give Money to my Lord's Servants, to  
have the Liberty of turning in their Hogs at the Season,  
when the Mast falls.

He also offer'd me Room to store large Quantities of  
Mast; Hereabouts the Labourers at this Time of the  
Year think Twelve-pence or Ten-pence a Day good  
Wages; But I cou'd not hear by all my Enquiries, that  
any Body had ever thought the Beech-Mast worth ga-  
thering, or carrying Home, as knowing no use that it  
was fit for.

*September* the 1<sup>st</sup>, I observ'd a great many large and  
small Beech-Trees, but there was no Mast upon any of  
them.

‘ September the 2d, I rode beyond *Tunbridge*, and saw there several Woods of small Beeches.

‘ September the 3d, I rode round the Grounds of Mr. *Selby Amheurst* at *Bayhall*, and saw about an hundred and fifty huge tall Beech-Trees, amongst which there is a Toll of about Sixty, so very high, that they serve as a Sea-Mark.

‘ September the 4th, I went to *Goudhurst*, and put up at the Crown, the Landlord's Name is *Stanierd*; He told me he was a Clothier, and very glad, that so excellent an Oil wou'd be made in *England*; That there were many Clothiers in the Town, who wou'd be pleased to deal for large Quantities of it; I spoke with many of them; Their Names are Mr. *Robert Tate*, Mr. *John Philcox*, Mr. *William Dean*, Mr. *Richard Ticknel*, and Mr. *John Fulliger*.

‘ From *Goudhurst* I went to *Biddenden*, and lay all Night; I saw much Beech-wood, but no great Quantity of Mast on it.

‘ September the 5th was Sunday,

‘ September the 6th, I call'd at the Bull at *Betherden*, the Landlord's Name, *John Ambler*, and saw abundance of store Room, which he wou'd let at very reasonable Rates; and he undertook to employ the poor People of his Neighbourhood to gather all the Mast, he cou'd procure; He inform'd me that Sir *Cholmondeley Deering's*, and the Earl of *Winchelsea's* Parks had vast Numbers of Beech-Trees in them, and went with me to *Ashford*, where Mr. *Smith* at the *Saracen's-Head*, was very serviceable, and gave me many useful Informations.

‘ September the 7th, I went over to *Eastwell* with Design to see the Earl of *Winchelsea's* Park, but his Steward

Steward, Mr. *Call*, not being at home, I rode on to *Surrenden*, to view Sir *Cholmondeley Deering's*, but the Steward not being in the Way at that Place neither, I cou'd observe nothing more, than that there were great Numbers of huge Beech-Trees in this Part of the Country; And that, tho' many of them bore no Mast this Year, nor the last, as the Country-People inform'd me, yet there lay under every Tree, Bushels upon Bushels of old Husks, half rotten, which had fall'n in the Year 1712, which was a great Year for Beech-Mast.

On the Eighth of *September*, being inform'd that there was much Beech about *Barrum-Downs*, I resolv'd to see it; But calling at Sir *Henry Oxenden's* at *Dean*, I had the Misfortune to fall ill of a violent Fever, which held me till the 25th, during which Time, Sir *Henry* sent his Steward to *Sellinge*, near *Rumney-Marsh*; and to *Denton* near *Barrum-Downs*; where at his Return, he inform'd me, that he found a pretty Deal of Beech, but that it bore little or no Mast; and that contrary to the Nature of other Beech-Trees, there was much Under-wood amongst the great Growth, which wou'd make it a difficult Matter to spread Cloths, or gather the Mast without them.

*September* the 25th, I went with Sir *Henry Oxenden's* Recommendations to *Eastwell*, concerning my Lord *Winchelsea's* Park; My Lord was not willing to part with his Mast This Year, because he had but a little, and hardly enough for his Deer, because other Fodder was scarce, but next Year his Lordship expected large Quantities, and shou'd be ready to treat about it; I rode about the Park, which I take to be seven or eight Miles in Circuit; It is very full of Beech-Trees, hardly any other Wood in it, most of them are prodigious large; I met with very few, that had any Mast upon them, and Those, which had any, did not bear so thick, as they do in a good Year; They had about  
twenty

‘ twenty Bushels upon a Tree, or very little more, and a  
 ‘ great Deal of light Mast among it ; The Country Peo-  
 ‘ ple told me, that in such a Year as That before the  
 ‘ last, there was Mast enough in this Park, to load a  
 ‘ Fleet of *New-Castle* Colliers ; and that the Trees are  
 ‘ budded in so promising a Manner against next Year,  
 ‘ that they never saw the like, and that they always ob-  
 ‘ serve, that every third Year the Mast never fails to  
 ‘ grow in great Plenty.

‘ From *Eastwell* I went to *Surrenden*, and met with  
 ‘ the Steward, who shew’d me *Sir Cholmondeley Deering’s*  
 ‘ Park, where I saw a great many large Beech-Trees,  
 ‘ many of which were pretty full of tolerable good Mast,  
 ‘ which the Steward promis’d to have gather’d, and sent  
 ‘ up as per Directions ; They inform’d me here, as in-  
 ‘ deed in all other Places, that in a good Year, which is  
 ‘ always every Third, the Mast does not grow, as it  
 ‘ does this Year, upon one Tree in ten or twenty ;  
 ‘ But that every Tree is loaded with Mast as thick as it  
 ‘ can hang, and the Mast all Plump and full of Kernel  
 ‘ without any light Husks, or Worm-eaten Nuts amongst  
 ‘ it ; I enquir’d for the Wood call’d Long-Beech, but  
 ‘ Mr. *Colliton*, the Steward at *Surrenden* inform’d me,  
 ‘ that it was cut down.

‘ September the 26th was Sunday.

‘ September the 27th, I view’d a Wood of *Sir George*  
 ‘ *Tutes*, near *Bulls-Green*, but cou’d find no Mast ; In  
 ‘ all these Parts I cou’d never meet with any Body, who  
 ‘ had ever thought the Beech-Mast worth gathering,  
 ‘ tho’ they all agreed, that in such a Year as 1712 was,  
 ‘ and as next Year is expected to be, one Man’s Labour  
 ‘ might in one Day fill as many Sacks, as a Horse cou’d  
 ‘ carry ; Eight-pence or Ten-pence a Day is good Wages  
 ‘ here at this Time of the Year.

‘ *Sp-*



' *September* the 28th, I went to *Tunbridge*, and from  
 ' thence to *Eridge*, where I saw a great Quantity of  
 ' Beech in my Lord *Abergavenny's* Park; One Mr. *Boakes*,  
 ' the Tenant inform'd me, that he wonder'd any Body  
 ' shou'd think it worth his while to offer Money for  
 ' such a common Thing as Beech-Mast, which cou'd cer-  
 ' tainly be good for nothing but Hogs-meat; That Fern-  
 ' or Grass was not more plentiful than this Mast in a  
 ' bearing Year, But that there was very little to be got  
 ' this Season.

' From *Eridge* I rode through several Farmers  
 ' Grounds, who have nothing but Beech-Trees in all  
 ' their Enclosures, and the Ground every where so  
 ' smooth under them, that it wou'd be the easiest Thing  
 ' in the World to mow away the Grass, and then after  
 ' beating down the Mast with Poles, it might be swept  
 ' together with stubbed Brooms and gather'd in pro-  
 ' digious Quantities, without any manner of Trouble.

' I rode afterwards through several great Beech-  
 ' Woods, belonging to Mr. *Packer* and other Gentlemen;  
 ' But it wou'd be an endless Task, so much as to  
 ' Name all Places, where I find great Numbers of fine  
 ' Beeches.

' *September* the 29th, I had the Misfortune to lame  
 ' my Horse, and was forc'd to go back to *Bayhall* for  
 ' another.

' *September* the 30th, I travers'd *Waterdown-Forest*,  
 ' where great Numbers of Beeches bear little or no Mast  
 ' this Season, what there was, the Country People en-  
 ' gag'd to gather for me,

' I went thence to Sir *George Rivers's* Park at *Chef-*  
 ' *ford*, and found Beech enough, but it bore very indis-  
 ' ferently.

' From

' From *Chefford*, I rode to my Lord of *Leicester's* at  
 ' *Penhurst*; The Steward and Keeper were gone abroad  
 ' to keep Courts, and their Coming home was uncertain,  
 ' my Lord's Park bears little Mast this Year, but I was  
 ' inform'd by several of my Lord's Servants, Mr. *Marshall*  
 ' at the *Porcupine*, where I inn'd, and one Doct. *Hailer*,  
 ' who had liv'd twenty Years in this Country, that, tho'  
 ' the Parks and Woods were cover'd every third Year  
 ' with Beech-Mast, up to the Ancles, yet they never  
 ' remember'd, that any Body had thought it worth  
 ' picking up, but Hogs were suffer'd to eat it up, and  
 ' tread it in, as a Thing of no Value: They cou'd give  
 ' me no great Hopes this Year, but what cou'd be done  
 ' they promis'd me to take Care of.

' From *Penhurst* I went to *Cowden*, and got several  
 ' useful Informations from Mr. *Cary* at the *Swan* there.

' From *Cowden* I rode to *Stoneland Park*, there I  
 ' saw many stately Beeches, but no Mast this Season.

' I went on to *East-Grinstead*, and enquir'd all I  
 ' cou'd from my Landlord, Mr. *Budging*, at the *Crown*  
 ' there.

' On the first of *October* I went to *Ashdown-Forest*,  
 ' where I took all possible Care to have the Mast ga-  
 ' ther'd for me, and found a pretty Deal here and there,  
 ' in several Parts of the Forest:

' This Forest is of it self sufficient, if there was no  
 ' other Beech-Wood in the Kingdom, to afford Mast,  
 ' that will make Oil for the whole World in any one  
 ' bearing Season.

' It belongs to the Earl of *Dorset*, is about seven  
 ' Miles long, and five Miles broad, and generally com-  
 ' puted

‘puted to contain near fourteen thousand Acres of Beech-wood.

‘I spoke with the Warrenners; whose Names are, *Daniel Hubourn, Henry Mitchel, Robert Polly, James Hutton, and Richard Watson*; These have All, prodigious Tolls of Beech in their several Limitations, And they told me, that this Time two Years the whole Forest was so thick with Mast, that they hung like Hops, and bore the Branches down to the very Ground; And when they fell, they lay so thick, that they were forc’d in several Places, to shovel them out of their foot-Paths; They said, that every third Year is such a bearing Year, and that by the early, thick, and most prodigious Budding of the Trees, the next Season must be the greatest, and most plentiful for Beech-Mast that ever was heard of.

‘They never knew any gather’d, but the Hogs are us’d to feed on the Mast, as it lies, till the Winter-weather rots it, and makes it bitter.

‘*Thomas Baker* at the *Red-Cross* at *Which-Cross*, upon this Forest, told me, that he had observ’d the Beech-Mast hang upon the Trees, till *Christmas*, and that a Month or six Weeks hence is the best Time for gathering it; For the longer the Mast hangs, the fuller and sweeter the Kernel grows:

‘Poor People hereabouts, at This Time of the Year, will work for Six-pence or Eight-pence a Day.

‘I met with one *Thomas Ranger* upon this Forest, who told me that he had come above a hundred Miles, through almost nothing but Beech-Wood, and that he had observ’d, the Mast was every where very scarce this Year.

‘The

‘ The Warreners inform’d me, that the Wood-Pigeons feed much upon Beech-Mast, and that in a bearing Season, you shall see a Hundred of them at a Time upon one Tree.

‘ *October* the second I left *Ashdown-Forest*, and in my way to *Turner’s Hill*, I travell’d through prodigious Woods of Beech; and the Country People with whom I dealt were every where delighted beyond Measure with the Account, I gave them of this new Discovery.

‘ Many Gentlemen I found were wise enough to take the Hint, and have already begun to plant Beech, where they have none; and to thin their Woods, where by reason of their growing too close, they are observ’d to bear less, than the Trees which stand at large.

‘ From *Turner’s Hill* to Mr. *Pain’s* at *Hoadly*, and from thence to Mr. *Lyddal’s* at *Wakehurst*, I cou’d hardly see any Thing but Beech; Mr. *Jackson* at Mr. *Lyddal’s* inform’d me, that all those Woods afford such vast Quantities of Mast in a good Year, as he says next will be, that the Farmers think it worth their While, to give seven or eight Shillings for the running of one Hog.

‘ I call’d at all the Villages, I came near, and made as many Bargains as I cou’d; ’Tis impossible to express how pleas’d the People are with the Business:

‘ I cross’d the Country from *Wakehurst* to *Balecom-Forest*; The Warreners here, are *Richard Peters*, and *James Gibbs*; They told me that the Forest will bear well next Year, and that it never does so but once in three Years.



' I learnt from them, that there is a Sort of Beech,  
' call'd Black Beech; some call it Hound-Beech, that  
' never bears at all.

' I went on to *Tilgate-Forest*, where I met with much  
' the same Success and Informations.

' All This while I cou'd, in a manner, come near no  
' Wood but Beech; I went on to *Hand-Crofts*.

' *October* the third was *Sunday*.

' *October* the fourth, Mr. *Curtis* at the *Red-Lion*, of-  
' fer'd me Store-houses to lay up a great Quantity of  
' Mast, and gave me several Accounts of great Quanti-  
' ties of Beech.

' I went into *St. Leonard's Forest*, where I had the  
' following Account from *Lyney Gatford*, and Mr. *Shep-*  
' *herd*, two of the Warreners.

' That the Forest belongs to my Lady *Calf*;

' That it contains above eighteen thousand Acres.

' That it always hits well once in three Years. *Uncertain*

' That *Anno 1712*, the Beech-Mast lay so thick all  
' over the Forest, that a Man cou'd not walk with Plea-  
' sure, by reason of his sinking into it. - *intirely full*

' That the Dryness of this Year had blasted most of  
' the little Mast it bore, but that it was most unusually  
' budded for the next Year.

' *October* the Fifth, Mr. *John Waller* at the *King's*  
' *Head* at *Horsham* promis'd to do all the Service he  
' cou'd.

' From

‘ From *Horsbam* I went to the *Menfe*, a vast Place of  
 ‘ Beech, belonging to Mr. *Stanley*, but found the Mast  
 ‘ very indifferent.

‘ Mr. *John Tailer* of this Place inform’d me, that the  
 ‘ Trees here were beyond Imagination thick of Mast  
 ‘ This Time two Years; That he had observ’d, it was  
 ‘ always so one Year in three; and that the Trees were  
 ‘ strangely budded against another Year, which I have  
 ‘ my self with much wonder every where taken Notice  
 ‘ of; He was much amaz’d to hear that Beech-Mast  
 ‘ wou’d make Oil, and has liv’d in That Place all his  
 ‘ Life-time, and never knew any gather’d.

‘ I went to *Flaxen-Park*, which is full of fine Beech,  
 ‘ and belongs to the Duke of *Somerset*; but it has mis’d  
 ‘ this Year.

‘ I find it much a-like every where, as to the Mast;  
 ‘ but there will be no End of setting down the prodigious  
 ‘ and unmeasurable Tracts of Beech, I meet with,  
 ‘ as I travel.

‘ I went to *Petworth*, and spoke with one *John Gray*,  
 ‘ who has a great many Beeches, but cou’d promise no  
 ‘ large Store of Mast this Year.

‘ Mr. *Gilway*, Keeper of my Lord Duke of *Somerset*’s  
 ‘ Park here, Mr. *Johnson* at the *White-Hart*, and  
 ‘ Mr. *Plat* a *Tobacconist*, all join in an Assurance, that in  
 ‘ every Third Year a Man might fill *St. Paul’s Church*  
 ‘ with the Beech-Mast, that may be got in their Neigh-  
 ‘ bourhood. *intirely full*

‘ From *Petworth* I went to my Lord *Montague*’s Park  
 ‘ by *Midhurst*, where the Beech-Trees are innumerable;  
 ‘ I observe that where-ever I come, the Beech suffers  
 ‘ not so much as Grass to grow under it, and the Ground  
 ‘ being

' being generally plain and dry, there is nothing to do,  
 ' but I sweep up the old Husks and Sticks to the Body of  
 ' the Tree, in a Heap, and the Mast may be thresh'd  
 ' down, and then rak'd up, and put into Sacks, with-  
 ' out the Charge of spreading Sheets, or any other Ex-  
 ' pence, or Labour; so that I don't see how, consider-  
 ' ing the Quantity, which one Man's Labour will pro-  
 ' cure in a Day, a Bushel of Mast can be expected to cost  
 ' any little Sum, so much as worth the Naming; I am  
 ' sure the Charge of Carriage, which is very cheap too in  
 ' these Parts, will more than double the Expence of the  
 ' Beech-Mast.

' Mr. *Lawrence Horishe* at the *Eagle*, at *Midhurst*, sent  
 ' for several People, who liv'd upon *Charlton-Forest*,  
 ' about three Miles off, who inform'd me, that they  
 ' wou'd gather and send up as much Mast, as they cou'd  
 ' get; That their Forest in some Years bears such prodi-  
 ' gious Quantities, that the Boughs are often known to *true*  
 ' split the Trees with their Burthen.

' This Forest belongs to my Lord *Scarborough*; and  
 ' the Chief Rangers are *John Crouch*, of *West-Den*, and  
 ' *John Bud* of *Charlton*, who were very well pleas'd to  
 ' hear of the likelihood there was for their Mast to become  
 ' worth gathering.

' They assur'd me that next Year wou'd produce a very  
 ' plentiful Crop.

' *October* the Sixth, I travers'd *Bear-Forest*, which is  
 ' near twenty Miles round; There was some Mast,  
 ' which I took what Care I cou'd to get gather'd; The  
 ' People told me that it never fail'd to hit every third  
 ' Year, and that next Year it wou'd bear a Mort of Mast  
 ' as they express'd it.

' I went on to a Place, call'd the *Barnet*, between  
 ' *Petersfield* and *Alton*, belonging to Sir *Harry Tichburn*,  
 ' where

‘ where is great Plenty of Beech, and indeed till this  
 ‘ Journey, I did not think there had been one Beech,  
 ‘ where I found a Thousand.

‘ *October* the Seventh, From hence I went to *Winche-*  
 ‘ *ster*, and thence to Mr. *Streets*, at the *Anchor* at *Red-*  
 ‘ *bridge*, upon the *New-Forest* in *Hampshire*.

‘ I met here with one Mr. *Fletcher*, who lives at *Win-*  
 ‘ *chester*; This Gentleman told me, that he wou’d engage  
*fall-* ‘ in a good Year to deliver a Million of Bushels, from off  
 ‘ the *New-Forest* only, and that he thought I offer’d too  
 ‘ great a Price; He said he knew the Forest very well,  
 ‘ and is sure, there are poor People enough living in it,  
 ‘ to gather all the Malt it can bear, and Store-Room  
 ‘ enough near at Hand to lay it up all safe.

*intrich* ‘ Mr. *Fletcher* rode out with me about the Forest,  
 ‘ where the Beech-Trees are monstrously large; We met  
 ‘ with many People, who inform’d us, that the Year be-  
*fall* ‘ fore last, the Beech-Mast lay and rotted upon the  
 ‘ Ground, in such Plenty, that the Colts, which are bred  
 ‘ upon the Forest, were much put to it to find Grass  
 ‘ enough to live upon; And that next Year wou’d prove  
 ‘ as good a Season for Mast, as That was; I ask’d them  
 ‘ how they cou’d be so sure before-hand, and they  
 ‘ shew’d me the Branches, and bid me take Notice, how  
 ‘ they were budded, and assur’d me that there wou’d be  
 ‘ more Mast upon the Trees than Leaves;

‘ The Rangers Names of the *New-Forest* are, Mr. *Ed-*  
 ‘ *ward Bright*, Mr. *Gale*, Mr. *Wild*, Mr. *Dickson*, Mr. *Gun-*  
 ‘ *ner*, Mr. *Marden*, Mr. *Gun*, Mr. *Tarver*, and Mr. *Gold*;  
 ‘ The Mast of this Forest is in Common, and the poor  
 ‘ People can never be hinder’d from gathering it.

‘ I went from *New-Forest* to *Rumsey*, and thence to  
 ‘ little *Bear-Forest*, within four Miles of *Winchester*, where  
 I saw



' I saw a vast deal of Beech, and had the same Answers  
' to the same Questions.

' *October* the Eighth, At *Farringdon-Common* I saw  
' an infinite Number of Beech-Trees; I went through  
' some very great Beech-Woods, belonging to Mr. *Knight*;  
' and others, call'd *Charlton-Woods*, which belong to the  
' Parish.

' At the *Swan* at *Alton*, and the *Swan* at *Alresford*, I  
' met with very satisfactory Accounts, which encourag'd  
' me to hope still better and better, as I shou'd pass  
' through *Surrey*, &c.

I break off the Journal here, nor have I Room for  
more; It wou'd make of it self a voluminous Work, to  
be half so full upon this Head as I might be.

Here follow a very few, out of an innumerable Store  
of Letters on this Subject.

*S I R,*

*Sept. the 27th, 1714.*

' I Thought to have presented my self before you this  
' Week, without giving you the Trouble of another  
' Epistle; But my Uneasiness at the unlucky Effect of the  
' Blite over so many thousand Acres of fine Beech-Wood  
' in *Glostershire*, *Monmouth*, and *Herefordshire*, has  
' caus'd me to turn abruptly into *Warwickshire*; I hear of  
' great and prodigious Quantities of Beech in one Part of  
' this County, but they do not grow I see upon the Banks  
' of the *Avon*:

' In Pursuance of Orders I made a thorough Scrutiny  
' of the Forest of *Dean*, in Company with an understand-  
' ing Man, one *Churchill*, Landlord of the *White-Lion-*  
' *Inn* in the *Lea*; multitudes of Beeches have of late

' Years been destroy'd in this Forest, but there yet re-  
 ' main incredible Numbers; many of them are This Year  
 ' pretty full of Mast, and what can be got I have given  
 ' Orders about; But they tell me here, as indeed they do  
 ' every where, that the Beech-Mast seldom hits greatly  
 ' above once in three Years, of which this is but the Se-  
 ' cond; We rode above twenty Miles in the Forest,  
 ' through some of the stateliest Beeches I ever saw, and  
 ' tho' I can scarce know what to promise this Year; I am  
 ' not able to represent in Words the amazing Quantity of  
 ' Mast, which in a bearing Year, may almost every where  
 ' be gather'd in This Part of the Kingdom; Not This  
 ' Forest only abounds, but cross the *Severn* for twenty or  
 ' thirty Miles together along the Hills, you can see no-  
 ' thing as you ride along but Beech; And I am positive  
 ' that many single Hundreds in the County of *Glocester*,  
 ' will afford you Mast enough to do your Business:

' I cannot upon all the Enquiries I can make, be in-  
 ' form'd, that any Body ever gather'd Beech-Mast, but a  
 ' few poor People, who pick'd up fifty Bushels, two or  
 ' three Years ago for Colonel *Brett*, to sow a Piece of  
 ' Ground with; They wonder to hear talk of buying  
 ' Beech-Mast, and have been us'd so long to think it worth-  
 ' less Stuff, that they know not how to be serious enough  
 ' to set a Price upon it, and are afraid that when they  
 ' have got a Quantity, it will be left upon their Hands,  
 ' and their Neighbours will laugh at them:

' I hope, Sir, to give you a very good Account from  
 ' the far Parts of *Warwickshire*, and being now bound  
 ' thither, remain in the mean Time,

S I R,

Your, &c.

Roland Wood.

S I R,



S I R,

Andover, Octob. the 4th, 1714

‘ **I**N my Way from *Salisbury* hither I receiv’d yours,  
‘ and according to your Directions have taken Care  
‘ to gather the Beech-Mast from one Tree, and I here  
‘ send you the Particulars :

‘ I went back and chose a middling Tree, which stands  
‘ single in an honest Farmer’s Grounds by *Titherly*, who  
‘ was formerly a Servant to poor *Ned Griffith*; He assist-  
‘ ed me with a large Barn-Cloth or two, which we spread  
‘ under the Tree; The Farmer himself got into the Tree,  
‘ and two Men stood below with long Ashen-Poles;  
‘ They struck the middle Part of the Boughs as near as  
‘ they cou’d come at them; I look’d upon my Watch,  
‘ when we began to beat, and it was half an hour past  
‘ two, and by a Quarter before four there was not a  
‘ Beech-Mast left upon the Tree; The whole Quantity  
‘ we got from this Tree was short of seventeen Bushels,  
‘ But the Mast being light this Year, the Husks had open-  
‘ ed sooner than ordinary, and I took Notice that the  
‘ Ground was cover’d very thick with it, before we spread  
‘ the Cloths, which the Farmer told me had been blown  
‘ down by the late high Winds; I made two or three  
‘ other Trials, and by the best Computation I am able to  
‘ make from my own Observation, and the Mens Opinions,  
‘ who assisted me, one Man’s Labour will beat down, and  
‘ make clean and fit for Use, at least ten Bushels in a  
‘ Day, which is pretty well, considering the Shortness of  
‘ Days at this Time o’Year; I hope this Account will  
‘ prove Satisfactory, &c.

Your, &c.

Charles Worfeley.



S I R,

Hemsted, Sept. the 14th, 1714.

I Am not able upon all the Enquiries I have made to  
get Information of any, who have beat down Beech-  
Mast, but met accidentally the other Day with one  
William Tolson and a Companion with him; And they  
tell me that they have known it pick'd up upon Com-  
mons, in several Parts of *Hartfordshire*, by poor Women,  
who work for Eight-pence a Day, and that one of  
them in that manner picks up about a Bushel, or little  
more in a whole Day; I did not like this Account, but  
as I came on the 11th Instant, between *Tring* and *Berk-*  
*hempsstead*, I met with a very large Beech-Tree in the  
Road, and seeing that many of the Husks were open, I  
call'd at a little Ale-house hard by, and got two poor  
young Men, and set them to work for half an Hour;  
In which Time they got a little better than a Bushel;  
But they said, that if they were to go rightly to work,  
they found that they cou'd easily get a great Deal more  
than That, especially in a good Year, for this Year  
there is not half a Crop of Mast, and what is here-  
abouts is good for nothing; I design now for *Bedford-*  
*shire*, and am,

Your, &c.

Robt. Morris.

S I R,

Watlington, Sept. the 23d, 1714.

I Was very much pleas'd to meet with the Gentleman,  
who has promis'd to deliver this to your Hands; since  
he is a Person, who has given me considerable Insight  
in the Affair I am about, as well as particular and  
useful



' useful Recommendations to others; He has something  
 ' to offer to you, which he only hinted to me, that will  
 ' I believe be very acceptable to you; I am now at *Wat-*  
 ' *lington*, I waited on Mr. *Stoner* this Morning, and be-  
 ' lieve I shall secure all the Mast in his Park for you,  
 ' which even this Year is very considerable; He assur'd  
 ' me himself, that in a good Year, they have judg'd his  
 ' Park to have Eight hundred thousand Quarters of Mast  
 ' in it: What you pleas'd to mention to me in your last,  
 ' shall be fully answer'd in mine by the next Post; I am,

Your, &c.

John Whitaker.

800000  
 640000  
 120/640000/5333  
 560000

S I R,

Hamburg, August the 27th, 1714.

' I Met here your second Letter, and take this Oppor-  
 ' tunity of making good my Promise of informing you,  
 ' as particularly as I can, in Relation to the great and  
 ' noble Design you have in Hand.

' To talk of naming every Wood and Forest of Beech,  
 ' were to go about to count the Stars; Above half the  
 ' King of *Prussia's* Dominions, as I came through them,  
 ' have hardly any other Trees than Beech, and hardly  
 ' any Prospect but Woods; Both *Saxony's*, and all the  
 ' River *Elb* are full of Beech; It is the commonest Wood  
 ' over all *Germany*; I have seen the Mast almost half a  
 ' Foot thick for five or six Leagues together; 'Tis so easy  
 ' to be got, that no value can justly be set upon it, but  
 ' the Carriage from one Place to another; But above all  
 ' Places, *Westphalia* is the Country, for there the Oaks  
 ' and Beeches, by the Mast they afford, give Revenue to  
 ' the Prince and Subsistence to the People; I lie now at  
 ' the House of a *Westphalian*, whose Brother is a Forester  
 ' under the Bishop of *Osnabrug*, and He tells me that he

remembers his Father us'd to feed for Sale, a constant  
Stock of five or six hundred Hogs with Beech-Mast,  
and that he has known above fourscore Bushels beaten  
down in an Hour or two's Time, from one single Tree.

Here is a Gentleman of *Holstein* in This Town, who  
tells me that the Earldom of *Laurwig* in *Norway* is in  
a manner over-run with *Beech*, that Workmanship is  
strangely cheap there, and Freight for *London* so easy,  
that he is sure it wou'd not cost so much to carry Mast  
from thence, as to buy it up in *England*.

He says that the *Royal* and *Ducal Holstein* abound  
greatly with this Sort of Mast, and that if Care were  
taken to have it gather'd, a Navy might be loaded  
from Either of those Countries.

I hear also that in *Zeland* and *Jutland* Beech-Mast is  
very plentiful, so that there is nothing more common  
than this Fruit over all *Europe*, &c.

I am,

Your, &c.

H. Parker.

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S I R,

*Paris*, Octob. the 15th, O. S. 1713.

Since I receiv'd Yours, I have taken all possible Care  
to be particularly inform'd in the Affair of Beech-  
Mast, I cou'd my self have said much to it, having  
liv'd nine Years in a Part of *France*, where all the Inha-  
bitants for many Miles round, are, as it were, *sub teg-  
mine Fagi*; But I have been solicitous to hear the Sense  
of wiser Men upon the Subject, and am now able to  
answer your Queries with a fuller Assurance:

Here,

' Here, about *Paris*, we have no Beech-Woods, that  
 ' is to say, none which consist entirely of that Species;  
 ' Tho' we have them, and that vastly large, and no less  
 ' frequent, in our neighbouring Woods, about *Meudon*,  
 ' *Versailles*, *St. Germain*, *Mont-Morency*, *Fountainbleau*,  
 ' and many other Places, within a Day's Journey round  
 ' us: But almost every where on the River *Loire*, and  
 ' particularly, in the Neighbourhood of *Orleans*, there  
 ' are whole, and huge Forests of this Kind: The *Garonne*  
 ' is border'd with them, even as low as *Bordeaux*, nor  
 ' are they wanting on the *Somme*; Indeed I know no  
 ' Wood so common as the Beech in all this Country.

' They ripen, here with us, about the Beginning of  
 ' this Month, but do not easily, nor without much shak-  
 ' ing, quit their Husks, till after a severe Frost or two; I  
 ' have observ'd them hanging upon some Trees till near  
 ' *Christmas*. When they fall, they lie in most Places an  
 ' Inch or two thick, but the Deer, where-ever they can  
 ' come at the Store, are sure to lessen it a-pace.

' I cannot so particularly inform you, as to the Price,  
 ' for which they may be gather'd, but to come as near  
 ' a Certainty as I cou'd, being last Week with T— B—  
 ' at *Mont-Morency*, I employ'd a Peasant for a whole  
 ' Afternoon, to spread a Parcel of Blankets under the  
 ' Beeches, behind his Stable, and shake down all he  
 ' cou'd; And at Night he measur'd out eleven Bushels;  
 ' According to which Quantity, if we reckon, that a Man  
 ' who begins to work in the Morning, may shake down  
 ' twenty Bushels a Day, I cannot see they will come to  
 ' much above a Farthing a Bushel.

' I think I have said something to every Article of  
 ' Yours; If my Account shou'd prove deficient in any  
 ' Thing material, I shall, &c.

W. Cecil.

Monfieur,

*Monfieur,*

From Orleans, 25th of June, 1714.

I DO my self the Honour to answer without Loss of Time, the Letter of a Gentleman, tho' unknown, yet so effectually recommended; *Monfieur* the Ambassador was pleas'd to do me a Justice I am proud of, when he said I was a Lover of publick Spiritedness, and the Study of Nature,

We have, *Monfieur*, in every Part of *France*, too much of this Beech, you write about; Towards the *Pyrenees* it harbours Wolves in Numbers, hurtful to the Husbandry of the Neighbourhood; Our Northern Provinces have now for near an Age made better Use of the same Woods in smaller Quantity; For they have in many Places no Oil, but what the Beech-Mast yields them, and which is indeed so excellent, that many of our Courtly Tasts begin to envy the Beech-Oil of our Peasants, and prefer it to the choicest Product of our Olives.

But nothing moves my wonder so much as that this Art should be, till now, a Secret in your Country, when it is the most publick Thing in the World in that Part of ours, which is nearest to you; I am the more amaz'd, because at the Time, when I receiv'd your Letter, I was sitting in my Study, and remembering such a Thing, I presently laid my Hand on a Book, which was translated out of your Language not above twenty Years ago, and was dedicated to the *Royal-Society of London*; 'Twas publish'd by the *Sieur Jean Evelyn*, and is call'd a Discourse of Forest-Trees; This very Author in a particular Chapter upon the *Beech-Tree*, says expressly, that the Beech-Mast yields a very sweet Oil, which the Peasants of *France* press out in Mills, and eat with much Satisfaction; your Island is indeed possess'd of

many



‘ many Blessings, and may the rather Escape our Wonder  
‘ for neglecting This ; But give me leave, *Monsieur*, to  
‘ declare my self more pleas’d than surpriz’d at a Neglect,  
‘ which is the Means of so much Honour to a ———

[ Here the Gentleman is pleas’d to practise the good  
Breeding of his Country ; so I go on to the Business of  
his Letter.]

‘ In *Bretagne*, and the Provinces where they make this  
‘ Oil of Beech-Mast, their Mast is gather’d and brought  
‘ to the Mills by Country People for a *Piece de cinq Sous*  
‘ (five Pence) *per* Bushel. The Millers will grind any  
‘ Man’s Mast, and make it into Oil, for a Penny a Bushel  
‘ over and above the Mast-Cakes, which they give to Cat-  
‘ tle. I cannot remember what exact Quantity of Oil  
‘ they expect from every Bushel of Mast ; but I am sure  
‘ it is more than they get from the same Quantity of Rape-  
‘ Seed ; which last Seed is therefore grown out of Use in  
‘ those Places.

‘ I know not how to answer your Question of what  
‘ Price it bears hereabouts. We are so well stor’d with  
‘ Olive-Oil, that we never make Oil of Beech, but in  
‘ small Quantities for the Apothecaries, and a few parti-  
‘ cular Palates. But I can in general assure you, that if  
‘ Plenty creates Cheapness, you may buy it in these Parts  
‘ for what you please to offer.

‘ The Three Forests of *Blois*, *Chambours*, and *Orleans*,  
‘ are full of Beech-Wood for above Two hundred Miles  
‘ together. The Ground lies so cover’d with the Mast in  
‘ its Season, that it makes Hunting troublesome : And all  
‘ these Forests are full of the poorest People in *France*, and  
‘ lie along upon the River *Loire*, which runs down to  
‘ *Nantz*, from whence the Mast might be shipp’d away  
‘ for *England*.

*Monfig-*

( 92 )  
‘ *Monfieur* the Duke of *Sully* has the Chief Power,  
‘ and when you please to fignify, that it is neceffary, I  
‘ can promise my felf the Honour of his Ear, and procure  
‘ your Agents all the Benefit of his Authority and Coun-  
‘ tenance:

*I am with, &c.*

*Monfieur,*

*Your, &c.*

*The Baron of Longueville.*

---

I might go on thus through a hundred Sheets of Paper, but you have already more than enough to demonstrate the prodigious Profit, Eafe and Infallibility of the Difcovery.

I come now to the Reasons why, after all this fatisfactory Information, and undeniable Proof of the great and certain Profit of the Undertaking, I ftop’d fhort at once, and took new Meafures.

It is impoffible for one who is not perfectly acquainted with the Nature of thefe Things, to imagine what an in-expreffible Fatigue attends the ftanding like an *Atlas* under Burthens far too heavy for a fingle Shoulder.

This Fatigue does not only arife from the Pains and Care, the daily Toil and conftant Circumfpection neceffary: Thefe, though in *themselves* no eafy Weight, are light, when compar’d with the frequent Impertinencies arifing from a general Unfteddinefs in Peoples Inclinations.

Every

Every silly Story gives Alarm to the Apprehensions of the Multitude. To Day they *confide*, to Morrow they *despair*; and 'twere a pleasant Speculation for a Person unconcern'd, to stand by and observe this incessant Rotation of unsettled Fancies.

Nor is this all. A Man who succeeds in an Affair like mine, and enjoys in a manner all the Profit himself, is made the common Butt, the shooting Mark of Envy and Malice. The World is apt to think his Merit over-paid by his good Fortune; and they never fail to take the surest Means they can to mortify his Vanity.

All this I experienc'd in the severest Manner; and all this I despis'd. I look'd down with a due Contempt upon the unmanly Efforts of defaming Talkers, and consider'd with much Concern, but little Anger, that they had not learn'd to make *what they would be willing to suffer*, the Rule and Measure of *what they resolve to do*.

But at last, I must confess, I grew weary of long receiving and forgiving the same repeated Injuries; and resolv'd to use the fairest and most likely Means I could think of to put an End to the Cause from whence they took their Rise.

A lucky Opportunity threw it self in my Way. The Year, by the unseasonable Drought, and a severe Blite attending it, was, as you have seen by the Journals, very unfavourable to the Beech-Trees: The Mast was nipp'd in the Bud, and most of it spoil'd. Even that which escap'd, of which enough however might easily have been got to supply more Beech-Oil than would have made good my Articles, was lighter and less oily than in good Seasons.

The

The Accident immediately alarm'd the Subscribers. They became apprehensive that their Money was in Danger; and comparing this Disappointment in the Season with the Rumours of the Town, they rashly grew jealous of Success, and became almost universally uneasy.

To as many of them as openly declar'd their Apprehensions, I made plain their Mistake: I blam'd them for their Unsteadiness: I represented to them, that though the Blite had damaged the Mast, and much lessen'd the Quantity, yet there was more than enough to be got to do my Business.

I illustrated this by the Example of *Apple-Trees*, which every Body knows to *fail* three or four times for once that they *bear well*; and that even in the worst Years, some Parts of the Kingdom have great Store of Apples: So the *Beech-Mast*, though blited in the general, is notwithstanding very good in many particular Places.

I went on, and urg'd, that as no Body would pretend that a Man could get nothing by the *Cider-Trade*, because there are four *scarce* Apple-Years to one *plentiful* one, so it would be more unjust to pretend, that the *Beech-Oil-Trade* must come to nothing by reason of a bad Year or two, Because a good Year for *Beech-Mast* must as infallibly come as a good Year for *Apples*; and when it does come, the Patent secures the whole Benefit of the *Beech-Oil* to its Proprietors; whereas the *Cider-Trade* lies open, and has many Thousand Rival-Sharers to divide and lessen its Profits, which are not in themselves a tenth Part so considerable.

I further informed them, That I did by no means depend wholly upon the *English Mast*; but that I had sent many Agents abroad, and had contracted with several Merchants for great Quantities of *Beech-Mast*, from *France, Germany*, and other Places; and particularly with

Mr. Adrian



Mr. *Adrian Gulderstein*, for Two hundred thousand Bushels from the *Ducal Holstein*.

These and many other Arguments I us'd to convince them, That their Security was infallible, and they ought in Reason to distinguish that it was so: But however I resolv'd at once to put an End to all their Doubts. If other People would not see their own Advantage, that was no Reason why I should be blind to mine: I therefore writ a Letter to the following purpose, and sent it to every particular Subscriber, both upon the first Proposal and the second.

' I told them, that *Michaelmas* drawing nigh, I thought  
' it proper to put them in mind, that if they did not  
' pay in the last Part of their Subscription-Money, the first  
' Part, which they had paid in already, would by the Ar-  
' ticles they subscrib'd to become forfeited.

' But that, notwithstanding this Article of Forfeiture,  
' I would be so far from insisting on the Advantage, That  
' if any of them were in the least uneasy, they were free-  
' ly and entirely at Liberty to withdraw their Subscrip-  
' tion.

' And to encourage them to withdraw, They should not  
' only be paid back all the Money they had advanc'd, but  
' a clear Profit of Twenty five *per Cent.* upon it; that  
' is, I would pay them a Hundred and twenty five Pounds  
' for every Hundred Pounds receiv'd from them.

' I therefore gave them ten Days Time for Considera-  
' tion, and desired them to choose freely, and either pay  
' in the rest of their Money by the Time fix'd, or give  
' Notice at the Office, that they would quit the Sub-  
' scription upon the Conditions which I offer'd them.

The

The Subscribers upon the last Proposal, to a Man, accepted my Offer ; and the Reason they gave me for so doing was this, That there was likely to be no great Quantity of Malt this Year, and that therefore they believed my first Stock would be sufficient. That the Success of my Affair was very probable ; but that since I had been so generous to make them such an unexpected Offer, they could not but believe I had my Interest in so doing ; and they thought they should act most wisely by accepting it, since it was no contemptible Gain to clear Twenty five *per Cent.* and to have been less than Six Months out of their Money.

I paid them back their Subscription, and the Profit upon it, with a much greater Pleasure than they receiv'd it from me. But the Subscribers to the First Stock of Twenty thousand Pounds were divided in their Sentiments ; and those in the List, which you will see inserted in another Part of this Book, would upon no Considerations whatever be induced to part with their Right in the Subscription, and still remain entitled to their Annuities.

I now with a great deal of Pleasure look'd back upon what I had done. I had reduc'd my Stock from a Hundred and twenty thousand Pounds to Fifteen thousand only, and had drawn my Business into a very narrow Compass.

I had every Day great Sums of Money offer'd me, but I dislik'd the Conditions, though they were indeed much easier than those I had so luckily dissolv'd. I found the Blite had so far damag'd the Malt in *England*, that I rather chose to depend on my Foreign Prospect for the little Quantity I should now want, and therefore recall'd my Agents, put a Stop to the Engines and other Works I was beginning at *Vaux-Hall*, and many other Places in the Country, and thought it more prudent to wait another

Year

Year before I put the Business to its utmost Stretch, because the Mast, which is almost the only Expence, will then be both as cheap again, and as good again together.

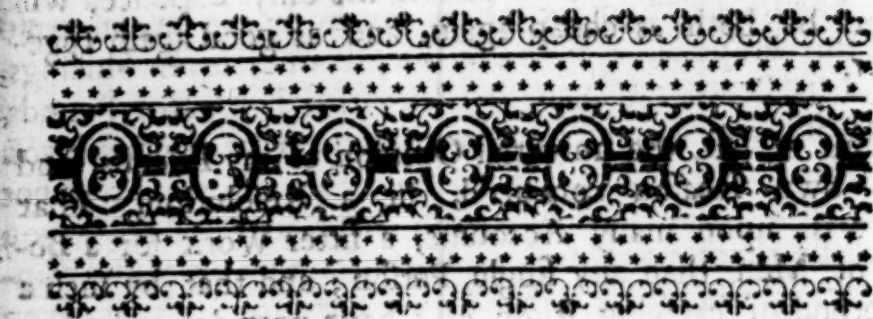
But at last, the universal Opinion of my Friends, and my own Reason concurr'd, in a Resolution, That it was, upon many Accounts, a fitter Work for a Body of Men than any single Person; and that by such a Method of carrying it on as I have now determin'd to proceed by, the general Advantage of the Business, and my own particular Profit and Ease, might be very well reconcil'd, and promote each other.

This therefore is the Cause to which you owe the Opportunity of this new Proposal. The Proposal it self you have at large in the next Division.

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G

A NEW



A NEW  
**PROPOSAL**  
 For Establishing a  
**BEECH-OIL COMPANY,**

AND

Dividing the Power and Profit of the *PATENT*  
 into Shares.



**WILL** endeavour to describe what I mean distinctly, and speak as plain as I can, that I may be rightly understood by my Readers.

Never before was so great and so secure a Profit given for such a trifling Consideration, as will be here demanded. My Design is not a Gain to my self, but a certain Foundation for the Undertaking I am going on with; and the only present Benefit I seek to make, will be found upon Examination little more than a reasonable Reimbursement of my Charges.

The



The smallest Sum for which any Body can be concern'd in this Proposal, is Five and forty Pound, seven Shillings, and six Pence. If you part with this Forty five Pounds, odd Shillings, it cannot fail, within the Year, to make you a clear Profit of at least Two hundred. If you make not the Profit, you part not with the Money. And if you will be timorous enough to fancy Impossibilities, and suppose that the whole Affair should come to nothing, even in That Case you cannot lose above the odd Five Guineas.

The Greatness of the Stock, which is Two hundred thousand Pounds, will arise from the Number of the Sharers, and not the Dearness of the Shares. Every Part of the Design shall be made plain to your Apprehension in the Pages following. All I intend here is only to let you know the Bottom upon which you are to stand, if you come into the Proposal.

A Book is now open, every Day, at the Beech-Oil Office, at the *Golden-Key*, a Woollen-Draper's, in *St. Paul's Church-yard*, from Nine in the Morning till Twelve, and from Two till Five in the Afternoon.

This Book contains Five thousand Instruments, which I call Shares. These Instruments are sign'd by my Hand; and every Body who purchases one or more of them, becomes entitl'd to one or more Shares in the whole Benefit and Power of the Patent.

The Price of every one of these Shares is Forty five Pounds, seven Shillings, and six Pence; that is to say, Forty five Pounds, seven Shillings, and six Pence, is the whole Sum which any Body can be oblig'd to pay in upon one Share from first to last: Out of all which, I am to have, in Consideration and Reimbursement of all past Charges, Trouble and Fatigue whatever, no more than the odd Five Guineas: The other Forty Pound *per Share* is to be the Stock to carry on the Business, and the Sharers them-

themselves are to raise it, and dispose of it as they see Occasion.

So that the downright Fact is no more than this: You pay Five Guineas for being let into a certain Means of making Two hundred Pounds a Year by laying out Forty. Observe but what you read, and you shall see this made as plain and demonstrable as you think it prodigious.

You will say, such a Profit as This was never heard of before. I allow it was not; neither was there ever before so good a Foundation to build it upon.

When you have paid this Five Guineas for your Share, the other Forty Pounds will remain in your own Hands.

Out of this Forty Pounds the only dead Payment will be Fifteen Shillings every half Year, for the Annuities hereafter mentioned, which still stand charged upon the Patent. All other Expences will be for carrying on the Business, as is found necessary by Five and twenty Directors of your own choosing.

These Directors are obliged to account for the Profits once a Year, or oftner; and when the Dividends are made, your Charge is first to be reimbursed you, after which One twentieth Part of the clear Gain is to be deducted for my Use, in Consideration of the Power and Advantages I give you, and then the Remainder is divided among you all in Proportion to your several Interests.

Your Money must be raised by a publick Order of your Directors, and by different Payments, sometimes Twenty Shillings, sometimes Fifty, sometimes more, as Occasion may require, and the whole Business transacted with as much Ease and Security to the Sharers as is possible.

But you will better apprehend the Design by the following Extract of the Deed and Schedules, by which  
your

your Right is convey'd to you, and which, for your unquestionable Security, is enroll'd in the High Court of Chancery.

‘ **W** H E R E A S Her late Majesty Queen Anne, of Blessed Memory, by Her Royal Letters Patents, bearing Date the 23d Day of October, 1713. was graciously pleased to grant to Aaron Hill Esq; and his Assigns, the sole Use and Benefit of a new Invention to make Oil from Beech-Mast, for and during the Term of Fourteen Years, from the Date of the said Letters Patents. And whereas I the said Aaron Hill have since charged the said Letters Patents, and the Privilege thereby given, with the Payment of certain Annuities to the several Persons particulariz'd in the annex'd Schedule, (Numb. 1.) as in the said Schedule does at large appear, by equal half-yearly Payments, on the Feast Days of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, and the Feast of St. Michael the Arch-Angel, ; the first Payment of which said Annuities will become due on the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin now next ensuing. And whereas, for the better carrying on the Business of making and vending such Oil, as is above described, and also for the more easie and effectual Payment of the said Annuities, I have given out, and continue to give out, certain Instruments or Shares, sign'd by my Hand, in the Form following :

**T** H I S Instrument entitles the Bearer to one equal Five thousandth Part or Share in the Property and Benefit of certain Letters Patents, for making Oil from Beech-Mast, granted by Her late Majesty Queen A N N E, of Blessed Memory, to the under-written Aaron Hill Esq; and his Assigns, subject to certain Conditions of Assignment, bearing Date the twentieth Day of December, 1714. and enroll'd in the High Court of Chancery.

A. HILL.



Now, Know Ye, That in Consideration of Five  
 Pounds, seven Shillings, and six Pence, to me in  
 Hand paid by the Possessor of every such Share, from  
 Numb. (1.) to Numb. (5000.) And also in Considera-  
 tion of a further Sum not exceeding Forty Pounds, up-  
 on every such Share, to be paid at such Times, to such  
 Persons, and in such Manner, as the Sharers, or such as  
 they shall choose to act for them, shall themselves find  
 necessary to appoint; which said Forty Pounds upon  
 every Share, or so much of it as shall be so call'd in, shall  
 be the Fund or Stock whereby the Proprietors of the  
 said Shares shall carry on the Business, and exercise the  
 Power herein after mention'd and convey'd. And in  
 further Consideration of the Sum of Fifteen Shillings,  
 on the Twenty fifth Day of *March* now next ensuing,  
 and fifteen Shillings more to be paid on the Feast of  
 St. *Michael* the Arch-Angel, and thence forward on  
 every Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin, and Feast of  
 St. *Michael* the Arch-Angel, during the Continuance of  
 the Power herein after convey'd, by each of the said  
 Sharers for and upon every such Share as he or she shall  
 stand possessed of; which said Thirty Shillings *per Annum*  
 for every Share, shall, by Order of the said Sharers, and  
 by the Hands of their Agents, be paid in Discharge of  
 the above-mentioned Annuities, particulariz'd in the an-  
 nex'd Schedule, Numb. (1.) And in further Considera-  
 tion of a certain Deduction to be made, at the Times,  
 and in the Manner, as in the annex'd Schedule, Numb. (2.)  
 is particularly provided, amounting to one full twentieth  
 Part of all clear Profit, from Time to Time arising from  
 or by the Exercise of the Power herein after convey'd,  
 to be paid into the Hands of me the said *Aaron Hill*,  
 or into the Hands of my Heirs, Executors, Administra-  
 tors, or Assigns, for my, their or any of their sole Use  
 and Benefit. And in further Consideration of a strict  
 Observance of, and Conformance to the several Articles  
 in the annex'd Schedule, Numb. (2.) declared and pro-  
 vided, and upon Condition of the same, I the above-  
 nam'd *Aaron Hill* have granted, bargain'd, sold, af-  
 sign'd,



( 105 )

' sign'd, and set over, and do by these Presents bargain,  
 ' sell, assign, and set over, unto all and every the Posses-  
 ' sor or Possessors of every such above-mention'd Instru-  
 ' ment or Share, from Numb. (1.) to Numb. (5000.) so  
 ' sign'd by my Hand, as abovesaid, one full and equal Five  
 ' thousandth Part of the said Letters Patents, and the sole  
 ' Privilege, Use and Benefit of the said Invention of making  
 ' Oil from Beech-Mast, in and by the said Letters Patents  
 ' granted unto me the said *Aaron Hill*, and all my Estate,  
 ' Right, Title, Interest, Term of Years, Claim, Property  
 ' and Demand whatsoever, both in Law and in Equity,  
 ' of, in or to the same. To have and to hold, with all  
 ' Rights and Advantages any way thereto belonging, un-  
 ' to every such Possessor of any one of the said Instru-  
 ' ments or Shares, so number'd, sign'd and possessed as  
 ' above-mention'd, or to his or her Executors, Administra-  
 ' tors or Assigns, from the Day of the Date of these Pre-  
 ' sents, to the Expiration of the Term by the said Letters  
 ' Patents, as above, granted. In Witness whereof, I have  
 ' hereunto set my Hand and Seal this present Twentieth  
 ' Day of *December*, in the First Year of the Reign of our  
 ' Sovereign Lord, *George*, by the Grace of God, of *Great*  
 ' *Britain, France and Ireland*, King, &c. *Annoq; Domi-*  
 ' *ni 1714,*

Here follows a List of the Annuities, for whose Dis-  
 charge every Sharer is to pay Fifteen Shillings twice a  
 Year, which amounts to the exact Demand of the An-  
 nuitants.

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*The Schedule, ( Numb. 1 ) referr'd to in  
 the annex'd Deed.*

**F** *Rances Blunt* entitled to an Annuity of Five hundred  
 and fifty Pounds.

*David Kennedy* to an Annuity of One hundred Pounds.

*John Maxwell* to an Annuity of One hundred Pounds.

*John Eversfield* to an Annuity of Twenty five Pounds.  
*Windover Jay* to an Annuity of Ten Pounds.  
*Sophronia Beau* to an Annuity of One hundred Pounds.  
*John Vincent* to an Annuity of One hundred Pounds.  
*Thomas Caterbanke* to an Annuity of Sixty five Pounds.  
*Thomas Webster* to an Annuity of Four hundred Pounds.  
*George Stead* to an Annuity of One hundred Pounds.  
*Isabella Rawdon* to an Annuity of Fifty Pounds.  
*Thomas Prior* to an Annuity of Twenty five Pounds.  
*John Bligh* to an Annuity of Twenty five Pounds.  
*John Matthew* to an Annuity of Twenty five Pounds.  
*Richard Bottrel* to an Annuity of One hundred Pounds.  
*Dorothy Louch* to an Annuity of Five Pounds.  
*Elizabeth Primatt* to an Annuity of Fifteen Pounds.  
*John Pery* to an Annuity of Fifty Pounds.  
*Catharine Lacey* to an Annuity of 12 Pounds 10 Shillings,  
*Humphrey Primatt* to an Annuity of 12 Pounds 10 Shillings,  
*Anne Beau* to an Annuity of 62 Pounds 10 Shillings.  
*David Williams* to an Annuity of Fifteen Pounds.  
*Mary Paramor* to an Annuity of Twenty Pounds.  
*John Duckett* to an Annuity of Fifty Pounds.  
*Mary Paramor* to an Annuity of Twenty Pounds.  
*Charles Lechmere* to an Annuity of Ten Pounds.  
*Charles Lechmere* to an Annuity of Fifteen Pounds.  
*Lawrence Clerke* to an Annuity of Fifty Pounds.  
*Thomas Brudenel* to an Annuity of Fifty Pounds.  
*Daniel Watkins* to an Annuity of Fifty Pounds.  
*Edmund Morris* to an Annuity of Eight hundred Pounds.  
*Diana Carter* to an Annuity of Fifty Pounds.  
*Jane Thomas* to an Annuity of One hundred Pounds.  
*Henrietta Chatwood* to an Annuity of One hundred Pounds.  
*Rebecca Wild* to an Annuity of Two hundred Pounds.  
*Alice Field* to an Annuity of Six hundred Pounds.  
*Anne Evans* to an Annuity of One thousand Pounds.  
*Thomas Boteler* to an Annuity of Two hundred Pounds.  
*Mary Sedgwick* to an Annuity of Thirty Pounds.  
*Francis Pemberton* to an Annuity of Two hundred Pounds.  
*Edward Rogers* to an Annuity of 280 Pounds.  
*John Mennell* to an Annuity of 1727 Pounds, 10 Shillings.

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The

*The Schedule, (Numb. 2.) containing the Articles and Conditions referr'd to under that Title in the annex'd Deed.*

ARTICLE I. That the Sharers or Possessors of the Five thousand Shares or Instruments mentioned and described in the annexed Deed, by or under whatever Name, Character or Title they shall at any Time hereafter be called or distinguished, and whether acting by Vertue of the Letters Patents only in the said Deed mentioned, or by Charter, Act of Parliament, or any other different or additional Power soever, shall annually on the Feast of St. John Baptist, commonly call'd *Midsummer-day*, meet together in one general Body, or as many of them as shall think fit, and by a Majority of Voices, (every Share entitling to a Vote, and no Sharer having more Votes than one) make choice from among themselves of Twenty five Directors, among whom they shall always be obliged to name, as one, the Patentee in the annex'd Deed mention'd, as a Person from whom they derive their Power.

Article II. That in Order to chuse Directors for the first Year, the Possessors of the above-mention'd Shares shall meet without further Notice on *Saturday*, the fifth Day of *March* next, at three a Clock in the Afternoon, at the Office in *St. Paul's Church-Yard*, then and there to proceed in the said Choice, by Each Sharer's putting into a cover'd Glafs the Names of such, as he thinks fit to vote for, and producing his above-mention'd Share as an Authority for his Voting.

Article III. That the Directors, as soon as chosen, shall appoint a speedy Day for Meeting, and first elect a Chair-



Chair-Man from among themselves, which Chair-Man shall be always chosen a-new at every Meeting of the Directors.

*Article IV.* That less than fifteen Directors being present, they shall only have Power to adjourn, without doing Business.

*Article V.* That the Salary of these Directors shall be appointed by a Majority of the Sharers Voices, at the same Time that they are first chosen, by Every Sharer's writing the Salary, he thinks most proper, under the Names he gives his Vote for.

*Article VI.* That the Directors do with all convenient Speed appoint their Secretary, and all other Officers and Agents whom they shall find necessary, and take upon themselves the Management of the whole Affair, the Patentee assisting upon all Occasions with his best Advice, but having no more Power than one single Vote among the Five and twenty.

*Article VII.* That all Money necessary to be raised be from Time to Time call'd in, by a Notice from the Secretary, sent Home to the Habitation of every single Sharer, or such Person as he appoints to act for him, which Notice shall be a printed Order of the Directors, underwritten by their Secretary, which original Order, as all other Orders, or publick Resolutions of the Directors, shall express the Design, and Occasion for calling in the said Money, and be enter'd in a large Journal-Book, which shall lie open at the Office, sign'd by the Directors present at the making it, for the general Inspection and Satisfaction of all concern'd, who shall always have free Liberty to resort to it, without Fee or Reward.

*Article VIII.* That the Directors be oblig'd to make up the Accounts, and come to a Dividend once every Year,



Year, and as much oftener as they shall find most convenient.

*Article IX.* That the Manner to be constantly observed in making the Dividends, shall be as follows:

*First,* Every sharer shall be re-imburs'd his, or her Charges, that is to say, so much of the Forty Pounds per Share, as has been call'd in by Order of the Directors, as above-mention'd.

*Secondly,* A Deduction of one Clear and full twentieth Part of the whole Profits, from Time to Time accruing, shall be made, and paid to the Patentee in the annex'd Deed mention'd, or his Order, Or the Heirs, Executors, Administrators, or Assigns of the said Patentee, or their Order, for his, their, or any of their sole Use and Benefit, in Consideration of, and as an Equivalent for the Privilege and Profits of the said Letters Patents, by the said Patentee convey'd to the said Sharers, or Possessors of the Instruments above-mention'd.

*Thirdly,* The whole Profits remaining, shall equally, in due Proportion, and according to the different Rights and Interests of the Sharers, be divided amongst them.

*Article X.* That if any Sharer shall refuse, or neglect to pay in his Proportion of the Money, at any Time, appointed by the Directors, and notify'd as above, The Secretary shall send to, and leave at his Habitation, or the Habitation of one, whom he appoints to act for him, a Summons in writing, setting a short Day for the Payment of the said Money, and upon his still neglecting to conform himself to the said Order, The Directors shall have Power by a written Order, to be enter'd, as before provided, to exclude him from being longer a Sharer, and may sell, or dispose of his Share to another.

A Dis.

## A Discourse explaining the Advantages of This Proposal to the Persons concern'd.

**I** Will under this Head be as brief as possible, for I have no Occasion to say much upon a Subject, which to every Thinking Reader, will explain it self.

If you consider the *Profit*, it is prodigious; If you think upon the *Sum* you venture, to entitle your self to this Profit; It is scarce worth naming.

The foregoing Proofs must convince any Man of common Sense, that Beech-Mast can never cost the *Company*, Even reckoning Carriage and all, so much as Six-pence a Bushel, or indeed any Thing near it, as I shall hereafter make more plain to your Directors, when I discover many Steps, which by the Experience, I have had in the Affair, seem properest to be taken.

All other Charges, with Mills, Engines, Salaries, and every Thing, which can be thought upon, will fall infinitely short of another Six-pence *per* Bushel; so that whatever Oil a Bushel of Beech-Mast yields, can stand the *Company* but in one Shilling.

Suppose then that you have only six Quarts from a Bushel, and that you sell, at the very lowest Price, Even no dearer than stinking Rape-Oil, that is, at three Shillings a Gallon; At This Rate, which, both as to Produce and Price of the Oil, is far below what can ever happen, Every sharer will make a clear Profit of 400 *l. per Cent, per Annum*, upon whatever Money he employs in the Undertaking.

Nay, you may fairly reckon all the Money the Oil sells for, to be clear Profit, since I have experienc'd and will discover to the *Company*, that the very refuse Mast-Cakes, which are left after pressing out the Oil, will sell for more Profit, than the whole Charge of the Business.

Neither

Neither is it an Objection to say, that the Beech-Mast hits well only one Year in three, since besides that you may in bad Years be furnish'd cheaply from beyond-Sea, you may gather Mast enough in *England*, in one good Year, to supply the Trade, till another good Year happens, tho' they shou'd be seven Years asunder.

I have taken Leases of some of the best Beech-Parks in *England*, any one of which, in such a Year as this next is expected to prove, will almost supply Mast enough for the whole Kingdom; The Rents are very easy, and the Bargains shall hereafter be apply'd to the Service of the *Company*.

Let us however set aside the Profit to be made by the *Mast-Cakes*, and only reckon upon the 400 per Cent, which is a Gain, that I defy all Mankind to shew a Reason, for not depending on.

At this Rate, Examine the Advantages you become entitled to by buying one Share only.

You come to the Office at the *Golden Key* in *St. Paul's Church-yard*, and pay down for your Share five Guinea's.

This five Guinea's is all you hazard; You cannot possibly lose a Farthing more; For admit that all the undeniable Demonstration of this Business were a meer Dream, a Shadow, a *Chimera*, a Thing of nothing; Yet even so, you can lose no more than that little Sum, for the following Reasons.

No more Money is to be paid, or can be demanded, till your Directors are chosen, and see fit to call it in by such several Payments, as they find necessary.

It is naturally to be supposed, that You, and every other Person concerned, will take Care to give your Vote for none but Men, whose Honour, Character, and Capacity you are very well acquainted with.

When four and twenty such Men are join'd with me, They have four and twenty Times my Power in the Management of the Affair; and will, naturally, both for their Reputation and their Interest, take proper Measures, fully to acquaint themselves with the Nature of it, and issue no Orders but what shall be apparently conducive to the general Benefit.

You



You cannot be impos'd upon by any false Pretences; For all Orders for raising Money, and the Causes for which they require it, are enter'd, and lie publick for your looking into, and your Directors are oblig'd, at the End of their Year, to give you an Account, and demonstrate that they have apply'd your Money, as your selves design'd it.

Were the next Year, instead of a *Good*, to prove a *bad* one, all the Money, which you cou'd possibly be liable to pay, wou'd be Thirty Shillings for the Annuities, and a much smaller Sum for Salaries, Agencies, and all the standing Charges of the Business, so that if you were to be *Getting* nothing, you wou'd, in a manner, be *Paying* nothing neither.

But as it is a Kind of Infallibility, that next Year will prove, as every Third Year does, a Year of Plenty, so 'tis likely, that within the first twelve Months, your Directors will find it Necessary, to call in all, or the greatest Part of your Forty Pounds, to pay for Beech-Mast, Oil-Works, &c. and if so, by that Time your whole Sum is paid in, a Dividend of Profits will become due, and you will receive a Hundred and sixty Pounds clear Profit, upon the Forty Pounds you pay in upon your Share, as before-mention'd.

'Tis a Jest and a Folly, not worth answering, for any Man to question, or deny this Calculation; It is very much under-rated, and will appear so to any Man, who has the Soul of a Gentleman, and Sense enough to make him capable of Demonstration; I build not upon imaginary Schemes of what *May* be, but plainly prove, what *Must* be; And He, who does not see and acknowledge This, shou'd lay the Fault upon his own shallow Judgment, and not Want of Force in the Argument; I write not to the Dregs of Mankind, but have been so us'd to the Insolence and Scurrility of ignorant Men, that I forget my present Readers may be the Reverse of That detestable Character, and am provok'd to more Warmth than is necessary.

You have here no dangerous Trials, no rash Adventures



tures to make; You have no uncertain Charges to undergo, before you reap the Benefit you aim at, Your Expence, on the Contrary, is small and limited, Your Product certain, visible and common, and the Event, as infallible, as the Undertaking easy.

If Malice dares attack *This* Proposal, nothing surely can be free from Her Ill Influence; The Enemy to a Design like *This*, can never be a Friend to the Interest of his Country; And 'tis a *filly* Spleen, that leads a Man to talk; and act against a Business, meerly because his Soul is narrow, and he has not Reach of Thought enough to fathom it.

If any Body can object against the smallest Particular of what I have affirm'd in the foregoing Pages, Let him stand out and attack me fairly; I desire, as the Fencers say, *No Favour*; But to asperse, to backbite, and calumniate; to stand, as it were, behind a Door, and shoot at me through a Loop-Hole, is a poor and an unmanly Practice, and below the very Dignity of Humane Nature.

I have nothing now to add, but that I wou'd advise my Reader, after a just, and an impartial Reflection on the Whole, to consider wisely, and not lose an Opportunity, which is likely to be but short; and which being now miss'd, will never happen more.

Weigh and consider, with the Reason of a Man, and the Spirit of a Gentleman, what a Trifle is to be ventur'd, in Comparison with the Profit expected; How much more generous it is to run so small a Hazard, were it merely in Regard to *Publick Good*, upon the very *May be* of a probable Proposal, likely at least to be beneficial to the Nation, than for Fear of losing such an inconsiderable Sum, as you may be concern'd for, to leave so much as a bare *Possibility* of its failing for Want of Encouragement.

Shares are sold at the Beech-Oil Office, which is now kept at the *Golden Key*, a *Woollen-Draper's*, in *St. Paul's Church-Yard*, from 9 to 12 in the Morning, and from 2 to 5 in the Afternoon.

FOR

**F**OR the Satisfaction of All such, who may not know, What Beech-Mast is, Little Parcels of it are deliver'd with the Book.

Sometimes 4 and 6, but generally Two of those little three corner'd Nuts grow together within the outward Husk, which Husk always gapes, when they are ripe, and lets them fall, upon the least Shaking of the Tree.

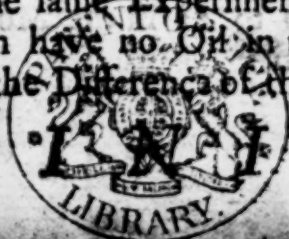
In making the Oil, the little Nuts with the hard brown Skin, that is upon them, are all ground down to Powder by a Mill, as Almonds are, But I send you the Nuts whole, that you may the better see the Nature of them.

Now to be at once convinc'd, as effectually as is possible, of the great Quantity of Oil, which This Mast contains, you need only pull off the little brown Shell from one of the Nuts, and sticking the Kernel fast upon the Point of a sharp Fork, hold it in a Candle, till it takes Fire, And you will see it burn with as clear a Flame, as the Candle it self, and may perceive the Oil run down an Inch or two upon the Fork, as you hold it in your Hand.

This little Trial, when you consider that near a Hundred thousand of These Nuts go to make a Bushel, will as fully demonstrate the Fact to any Man of Sense, or Knowledge, as Ten thousand Experiments; Tho' publick Experiments will also be made, in vast and daily Quantities, when the good Mast, which is speedily expected from *France*, and *Holstein*, shall arrive in the River.

For the better Convincing you of the Certainty of This Proof, Take any little Piece of a Wall-nut, Hazel-nut, or Almond, all which are publickly known to yield half their Weight in Oil, tho' by the Price of these Nuts, their Oils are very dear, and you will see it burn exactly in the same Manner with the Beech-Mast; But on the Contrary, make the same Experiment with a Chesnut, or an Acorn, which have no Oil in them, and you shall presently perceive the Difference of their Natures.

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